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THE TIMES

The festivals of 1979
in retrospect:
Eight-page supplement

Bill frees local authorities from curbs of government

Government yesterday published a Bill lifting many of the controls and constraints on local government. The repeal of three Acts of Parliament, including the Community Land Act, parts of 59 others is proposed. But tighter control over local authority spending is planned, introducing a system of block grants.

lock grant system is opposed on spending

Stephen Wainman

Local Government, 2 and Land Bill, which fundamental changes relationship between central and local government, published yesterday.

ed "An Act to relax over local government. The Bill proposes the three Acts of Parliament, including the Community Act, and parts of 59 and removes many of controls and constraints of the abolition of which by the Government.

At the same time it proposes that will impose control over local spending by introducing a new system of block grants. That will enable the central government to identify the individual councils' grants to them if spend substantially.

it is councils' capital will also be introduced within the local authorities will take detailed without consulting the central government.

of that part of the Bill with planning is to speed procedures and release land to be released for development. Local

It does not have to wait for a plan to be approved.

will be entitled to demand information about their holdings, and the Bill proposes to establish a public register of all land owned by the government department.

men, local authorities and nationalised industries.

The weighty Bill, containing 246 clauses, is one of the longest in recent times, which caused some embarrassment for a government determined to cut down on legislation. Mr Tom King, Minister for Local Government, emphasized that both the Town and Country Planning Act, 1971, and the Local Government Act of 1972 were longer.

Although it was scheduled to go first to the House of Lords for consideration, that decision will be reconsidered by the Cabinet after protests from the Opposition, which has threatened to delay it if that happens. Mr Michael Baseline, Secretary of State for the Environment, hopes that it will be come law by next summer.

Local authority leaders were not happy about the main provisions in the Bill. Mr Lionel Pilkington, deputy secretary of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said the financial provisions and powers to establish urban development corporations could not be seen as anything but a "radical alteration to the rights and powers of local authorities".

He said: "The block grant is strongly opposed because it is likely to be unjust and inefficient in operation."

Sir Gervas Walker, chairman of the Association of County Councils, believed the new block grant system could create a situation where future governments could be equipped with the tools to interfere in the detailed budgeting of individual local authorities."

Report, page 4
Leading article, page 15

Poll reports Carter lead over Senator Kennedy

From David Gross
Washington, Dec 4

President Carter, who announced today that he is to stand for reelection, has been given timely encouragement by a public opinion poll. For the first time it showed him slightly ahead of his leading rival, Senator Edward Kennedy.

The survey, carried out last week by Louis Harris for ABC News, disclosed that the President had the support of 42 per cent of Democrats and independents, compared to only 40 per cent for Senator Kennedy. Mr Jerry Brown, the Governor of California, scored 11 per cent.

On the other hand, if the sample is limited to those people who consider themselves Democratic Senator Kennedy moved ahead of President Carter in a three-cornered contest. Forty-four per cent of Americans said they would support the senator from Massachusetts, 40 per cent for Mr Carter and 10 per cent for Mr Brown. But if Mr Brown is removed from the lists, the President led Mr Kennedy by 48 to 46 per cent.

The results of the survey came as a surprise to Mr Robert Strauss, chairman of the President's reelection campaign. He said that the rapid increase in support for Mr Carter was probably due to public approval of the way the President was handling the Iranian crisis.

Agreeing with this assessment, a spokesman for the Harris polling organization said it was unclear at this stage whether the new-found popularity of the President would persist once the Iranian problem was over. He pointed out that support for Mr Carter's handling of economic and energy issues for example was still low.

Nevertheless, the poll represents a remarkable turnaround in Mr Carter's popularity, however short-lived it might prove to be. In every previous poll, Senator Kennedy has far outpaced Mr Carter, in some cases by a two-to-one margin.

The President's long-awaited announcement of his intention to seek re-election was made formally at the White House this afternoon. He was later attending a fund-raising dinner in Washington where he had agreed to bring the Patriotic Front to its home to the Patriotic Front.

The mood in ministerial quarters was described as uncertain. This was a shift from Monday evening when several ministers had confidently predicted the Patriotic Front would still agree to Britain's proposals.

Their point was that Lord Carrington had acted to bring it home to the Patriotic Front.

The Order in Council, which

leaders that they must come to a decision. Last night this was still the belief although an element of uncertainty had crept in.

So far the Government has not come under pressure from the Opposition Front Bench, although backbenchers in the Labour Party's international committee are loud with warnings and threats.

Mr Peter Shore, Shadow Foreign Secretary, had put down a private notice question yesterday. When it became apparent that a statement would be forthcoming today he did not press the Prime Minister at Question Time.

The Labour Party international committee passed a resolution warning the Government of a possible war in central Africa involving British troops if the outcome of the London conference did not command the full support of the Patriotic Front.

Such an outcome, it said, would be a "complete negation of the Lusaka agreement". The committee reaffirmed its support for the Patriotic Front.

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The Order in Council, which

was laid before Parliament yesterday, rest in the British Governor and Deputy Governor in Rhodesia, full legislative powers, executive authority, and prerogative of mercy until independence.

The order makes clear that it is the Governor who commands the commanders of the forces in Rhodesia. One section specifies that "all officers and all authorities in southern Rhodesia" shall be obedient to the Governor.

Like deadlocked: The Rhodesian constitutional conference remains deadlocked stalled yesterday, with little or no progress in getting the talks to a ceasefire restarted (David Spanier writes). The only flicker of hope was in contacts reported between officials of the Patriotic Front and the British delegation, by telephone.

The purpose, according to the British side, was to see if the possibility existed of making a start on the implementation of the details of the ceasefire. But the prospects were seen as distinctly fragile.

Both the Patriotic Front and the British delegation spokesmen engaged in public declaration of their good faith, leaving an impression that each side wanted to lay the blame for any breakdown on the other.

Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe accused Lord Carrington of creating "an artificial drama" in curtailing the talks on a ceasefire.

Salisbury approval, page 8
Leading article, page 15

In a careful and conciliatory statement to break the deadlock, Mrs Thatcher's team kept in close touch with Lord Carrington. The fear is that if there is no movement today the conference will collapse.

The contacts between officials were designed to find a formula by which the Patriotic Front might accept the British ceasefire proposals in their principles, while clarifying the technical matters such as the number and location of assembly points, and the time needed to implement a ceasefire, there was still a way for negotiators to find a compromise. But the prospects were seen as distinctly fragile.

British spokesman repeatedly insisted that there was no question of foreign units operating in Rhodesia when the British Governor took over.

He spoke of the "astonishing generosity" of the concessions made by Bishop Muzezwa's delegation, and added: "If there is not a final agreement including implementation of the ceasefire, peace within the course of this week, peace may never be achieved at all".

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Man jailed for life for 6 'horrific' murders

John Childs of Poplar, London, pleaded guilty to six murders, described by the prosecution as macabre and horrific, when he appeared at the Central Criminal Court. He was sentenced by Mr Justice Lawson to life imprisonment on each count concurrently.

Mr Childs admitted murdering George Brett and his son Terry of Upminster, Frederick Sherwood, a Herne Bay nursing home proprietor, Ronald Andrews, Terence Henry Eve, and Robert James Winston Brown.

Mr John Mathew, QC, for the prosecution, said Mr Childs and others decided to murder Mr Eve, a tallow manufacturer, they bought a large butcher's mincing machine to dispose of the body. It was installed in Mr Childs' flat, the room having first been lined with polythene.

After the murder it was found that the mincing machine did not work. They tried to flush parts of the dismembered body down the lavatory, but that took too long.

A fire was built and for 24 hours Mr Childs and another man burnt the complete body bit by bit. The ashes were scattered from the window of a car on the Barking-by-pass.

The six murders were alleged to have occurred between October 31, 1974, and sometime after October, 1978.

Mr Mathew said: "There may well be further charges of a similar nature preferred against other persons who are alleged to have been involved in these matters. Indeed, two persons have already been charged with one or other of these offences.

He was concerned that no prejudice might arise to such persons at any future trial. He intended not to mention actual names of others involved.

Mr Mathew said that while being questioned by the police

Continued on Page 2 col 4

Confidence gives way to uncertainty as conference deadlock on ceasefire continues

Government statement on Rhodesia in Commons today

Ev Fred Emery
Political Editor

The Government is to make a statement in the Commons today on the Rhodesia conference, but any suggestion of drama was being defused last night.

It was said in government quarters that, pending further contacts between Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, and the Patriotic Front leaders, the Government's intention was to keep Parliament informed. It would not announce further steps towards any separate deal without the Patriotic Front.

It was also said that there was no intention at this stage of having Mrs Margaret Thatcher intervene personally with the leaders of the Patriotic Front to rescue a settlement.

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Stampede victims: Rescue workers try to save some of the rock fans trampled underfoot when 20,000 tried to see the British group The Who in the Cincinnati Coliseum on Monday night. Seven young men and four women died in the crush. The Who was about to start. "It was a cold night," said one policeman. "Some were drinking, some were smoking marijuana, and suddenly the doors were open. About 4,000 of the 18,000 seats had been reserved, the rest being for general admission. When the British group of four arrived and began tuning up the fans thought the concert was about to start. "It was a cold night," said one policeman. "Some were drinking, some were smoking marijuana, and suddenly the whole crowd went wild." Unaware of the tragedy, The Who went on with the concert. Survivors described the stampede as a nightmare. An usher said some people smashed a window in one door and then pushed through the glass making the gap bigger as they surged in. A girl of 15 said: "You could see people going down."

Iran Minister says students will judge US captives

Tehran, Dec 4. — The Americans being held hostage will definitely be put on trial for spying and be judged by their student captors, Mr Sadeq Godarreh, the Iranian Foreign Minister, said today.

The Minister, in an interview released by the official Paris news agency, said the next move was up to President Carter. He urged the Soviet Union not to interfere even if the United States attacked Iran.

The militant captors themselves angrily rejected reports that several of their hostages at the American Embassy were being "softened up" for imminent spy trials, though admitting they had been extensively questioned. The Government announced the formation of a new "combat cadre" of thousands of former soldiers to help protect the country from American aggression.

"Iran cannot do more than it has already done to break the deadlock" with the United States, the Foreign Minister said.

He said Mr Carter could end the stalemate by returning the Shah or at least instituting an investigation into the Shah's vast wealth.

However, it is a development

that could eventually pave the way for release of the hostages, Ayatollah Khomeini swept towards victory in his drive to turn Iran into a fundamentalist Islamic state.

In a two-day referendum, initial figures from 91 cities indicated that Iranians who voted in a turnout said to be 90 per cent a new Islamic constitution should be adopted.

Kurdistan autonomy, page 10

Miners refuse to sanction wages strike

The miners have refused to give their leaders authority to call a strike against the National Coal Board's 20 per cent pay offer.

This message will be conveyed today to the National Union of Mineworkers by the Electoral Reform Society which has been courting votes cast in the secret plebiscite ballot over the last four days.

Continued on Page 2 col 4

Angry Dutch recall envoy

The Netherlands Government has recalled its ambassador to Paris for consultation about the French decision not to ratify the 1976 convention on the pollution of the Rhine. The decision angered the Dutch, as 45 per cent of the 18 million tons of salt polluting the Rhine each year come from mines in Alsace. The convention provided for the pumping of the brine waste into the ground instead of into the river. This aroused anger in Alsace whose farmers fear a contamination of the soil that would ruin it for agriculture.

Herr Schmidt to meet East German leader

Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, is to meet President Erich Honecker, early next year. The move is seen as a sign that despite a massive and often threatening propaganda campaign against West Germany over the deployment of medium-range nuclear missiles, the Communists are anxious to maintain normal relations, if not even better relations.

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HOME NEWS

Several skill centres threatened by Government plans to cut waste in training programmes

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

The Government is considering proposals to reduce the number of its centres for training workers in new skills, as part of the programme for elimination of waste being undertaken by Sir Derek Rayner.

The confidential draft proposals would, if implemented, mean the closure of at least 10 centres, or annexes to centres, including some in high areas of unemployment.

The plans are understood to be in keeping with the criteria laid down by Sir Derek, the joint managing director of Marks & Spencer, when he was appointed the Prime Minister's adviser on the elimination of waste in Government.

Although the Manpower Services Commission had been expected to propose some rationalization of its skill centre network, the plans inspired by the Rayner exercise are likely to cause sharp trade union protests on the ground that they may deprive industry of badly needed skilled workers.

The draft proposals, probably the most detailed yet to come in light in Sir Derek's sphere of influence, which spreads across Whitehall, provide for closures of the following skill centres or annexes: Cardiff (Tremorfa), Llanelli, Dumbarton, Port Glasgow, Billington annex (Glasgow), Sheffield annex, Leeds annex, Dudley, and Enfield annex.

Unofficial estimates are that

the cuts would mean the loss of capacity to train almost 3,000 workers in new skills a year out of a total of about 30,000 a year throughout the skill centre network. At present, partly because of a shortage of skilled

trainers and of incomplete

training places, the centres are understood to be vacant. About 70 per cent of those who pass through the centres find work in their chosen skill within three months.

Training places lost at Billington, Dudley and Enfield would, however, be replaced by those at new centres planned at Rutherford, Redditch and Camden in London, respectively.

Training at skill centres, the successors of wartime government training centres, lasts an average six months. Among the proposed cuts are some in places for training in skills which are believed to be officially designated as suffering acute shortages of manpower: electronic assembly (48 places), instrument maintenance (30 places), electric arc pipe welding (12 places) and electric arc plate welding (96 places).

The normal procedure is for a civil servant at principal level to be detached to draw up proposals for cuts in his department, in concert with or for submission directly to Sir Derek, who discusses them with the minister responsible, or in the case of the Manpower Services Commission to the chairman, Mr Richard O'Brien.

The draft proposals for closure of 10 establishments is understood to be at the stage of

a submission to Sir Derek and has not yet been formally discussed with the Commission. The commission meets on December 18 and Sir Derek is likely to see Mr O'Brien before then.

The closure proposals, which may be extended to take in about four others, including two believed to be in new towns, will certainly, if implemented, be justified by the Government on the grounds that they leave the skill centre network intact and will make it more efficient.

Even under the plans no region will be left without a substantial centre.

The report drew a sharp protest last night from the Civil Service Union, which represents skill centre instructors, and expects about 250 of its members to be redeployed under the plan. Mr John Randall, the union's assistant general secretary, said: "If these suggestions are true, I am appalled.

Sensible rationalization must meet the demands of the labour market is one thing, wholesale closures are another. In particular we would be shocked by the closure of Dumfries at a time when there are widespread redundancies in the west of Scotland and workers have an urgent need to acquire new skills."

In the House of Commons yesterday, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, said he was discussing rationalization of training programmes with the commission.

Training should be for tomorrow's needs and not yesterday's, he said.

50,000 civil service jobs may be cut in two years

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

The Government will tomorrow announce its plans for job reductions in the Civil Service. Union leaders expect to hear that about 50,000 posts will disappear in the next two years.

While the announcement will anger the Civil Service unions, it is unlikely to please some Tory backbenchers since it falls well short of the 10 per cent reduction, which was one of the options considered by the Cabinet.

The other options were for 15 and 20 per cent cuts.

Tomorrow's announcement will be made simultaneously in the Commons by Mr Paul Channon, Minister of State at the Civil Service Department and Lord Soames, Lord President of the Council, and the minister with responsibility for the Civil Service.

After the announcement Lord Soames will make the unions to explain in detail the effects of the cuts. Because of the situation of strict cash limits during the present financial year, about 20,000 jobs in the Civil Service will have been lost by April.

Whitehall officials stressing last night that the 10 per cent figure was never a minimum for the exercise and the announcement will be couched in terms of the cash savings rather than the reduction in employment in the service.

Despite this, however, the Government had made it clear that it was expecting spending departments to clog for cuts in the 10-20 per cent range.

Ministers can expect a hostile reaction from the Civil Service unions which have argued that cuts in manpower will lead to inefficiency in the machinery of Government.

The Government set in train its examination of reduction in departmental manpower after pledges in its election manifesto that waste in the Civil Service would be eliminated. Investigations of whether reductions could be made have been going on for several months culminating in the Cabinet decision to accept something less than its 10 per cent target.

The city council decided to set up a committee of enquiry to look at the sky-high interest rates to see the logic in that. We are saving several million pounds."

BL management has made strenuous efforts over the past four months to reduce Rover stocks. The company attracted adverse comments by offering a side of smoked salmon to motorists who test drove a Rover, but claims that the results one in five bought a car—more than justified the expense.

However, attempts to prevent the car being discounted by dealers worried about their stocks have not been very successful. New Rovers are still being offered for sale at substantial discounts.

Meanwhile, Mr Derek Robinson, the sacked BL shop steward, said yesterday that he would attend the three-man inquiry into his dismissal which the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers is opening in Birmingham today.

He added that he did not know what form the inquiry would take until he got there or whether he would be able to call witnesses.

Shop steward supporters of Mr Robinson have called for a mass demonstration outside the union's Birmingham headquarters, timed for half an hour before the inquiry opens at 9.30 am.

Boy given teddy bear and then shot in the head

Continued from Page 1

About a Hertfordshire robbery last June Mr Childs said he could give evidence about a number of murders. He made a long statement and the case now being outlined was based on that, because there was little other evidence.

Counsel said that in 1974 Mr Childs was working with Mr A making lifejackets in a factory at Haydon Road, Dagenham, London. Mr B also worked there and lived in a bungalow next door to the factory.

Mr Childs had part of that factory to make teddy bears. Mr A had a partnership arrangement with Mr B.

Mr Mathew said that the three men considered "killing" him to be an easy way to make money. Mr A and Mr B decided to ask their "gangster friends" if they wanted any contracts taken out. The price range would be from £2,000 to £10,000.

A sum of £2,000 was agreed with Mr X for the elimination of Mr George Brett, a self-employed haulage contractor. Mr Childs went in Mr B's car to Mr Brett's house and invited him to see some goods at the factory. Mr B's car would not start so Mr Brett got into his own Mercedes to give Mr Childs a tow-start.

Mr Brett's son Terry, aged 10, came out of the house to see what was happening. Mr Mathew said. It drove away, and he did not get out.

At the factory Terry was given a teddy bear by Mr Childs. His father was invited to sit in a chair and was shot by Mr B from behind the counter. Mr B shot Mr Brett again through the head. Mr Childs grabbed the boy and held him while Mr B put the gun to his head and shot him.

The bodies of Mr Brett and his son were dismembered in the factory, put in polythene bags, loaded on to a delivery van and taken to Mr Childs' flat for incineration.

Counsel said both Mr Sherwood and Mr Andrews were shot by Mr B.

Loans aid for food traders

By Hugh Clayton

The Government wants to make interest-free loans of £15m to food traders to cover bills that EEC authorities cannot afford to pay. The refusal of the European Parliament to accept a supplementary budget for the Community this year means that the EEC Commission has run out of cash to pay for the best and complicated apparatus of the common agricultural policy.

Mr Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said in a parliamentary written

First sign of unrest as steelworkers strike

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The first sign of industrial action against the British Steel Corporation's plan for job-cuts and a 2 per cent wage rise this winter came yesterday at the Corby steelworks in Northamptonshire. The plant was shut down when 8,000 men struck over partial closure plans.

The steelworkers walked out for 24 hours in protest at the proposal of pay to 60 engineers who carried out routine maintenance work that management said was unnecessary because steelmaking at Corby is due to be phased out next March.

They included many blast-furnace workers, whose union leaders yesterday expressed disappointment at BSC's 2 per cent pay offer and called for fresh government investment to put the industry back on its feet.

Only one of the four furnaces at Corby was working despite the refusal of the National Union of Blastfurnace, Ore Miners, Coke Workers and Kindred Trades to give official support to the walk-out.

industry, and vitally important for the nation—the same as coalmining.

"The Government should put more cash in now. They can't afford to let the industry die. It is a damn shame. If our members leave, the industry will never get them back.

They have offered the miners 20 per cent and us 2 per cent just because they say they can increase the price of coal and cannot increase the price of steel."

The blastfurnace union leaders did not take the unexpectedly militant line of the userly-organized Iron and Steel Trades Confederation over the steel corporation's offer. They expressed disappointment but agreed to take it away for consideration. But Mr Smith rejected the self-financing retrospective productivity bargaining offered by BSC. "We are full out as we are already. There is nothing in it for us," he said.

After the outsize rejection of their offer at the hands of the industry's largest union, BSC executives were yesterday relieved that the blastfurnace workers had at least agreed to

consider the package. Mr Peter Graham, BSC's director of industrial relations, said their intentions with the union were "constructive".

He added: "The union made it clear that they appreciated the extreme difficulties facing the corporation. They expressed disappointment at the offer made by management and undertook to consider the proposals at their next executive meeting. In particular they will be considering the corporation's proposals for local additional payments up to a maximum of a further 10 per cent dependent on improved financial results in the steelmaking areas."

In the past two years, the blastfurnace union has been in the forefront of accepting large redundancy pay-offs rather than fighting for the plant closures that have cost, by union estimates, 40,000 jobs.

The action at Corby yesterday suggests that the union may follow the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, whose executive will consider strike action on Friday.

Leading article and letter, page 15

£2,750,000 deficit on Commons meals

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Portsmouth City Council is promoting its own Bill in Parliament to ban the large trade through its docks of live animals destined for slaughter abroad.

Nearly 65,000 animals were exported through the city docks for slaughter last year and nearly 26,000 had been exported up to September this year, most of them cattle, including many calves. If the Bill becomes law they would all be banned.

The city council decided to set up a committee of enquiry to look at the sky-high interest rates to see the logic in that. We are saving several million pounds."

Traders exporting animals through Portsmouth docks for reasons other than slaughter would have to apply for an exit certificate and the Bill provides for a maximum fine of £1,000 for anybody found guilty of giving false information. It also permits the council officers to search vehicles and vessels at the docks for possible contravention of the regulations, with a maximum fine of £500 for those failing to comply.

A council official said: "There has been a lot of evidence of substandard caused to be claimed on the Continent in spite of EEC regulations. There is no guarantee that they will be properly treated once they leave the docks. We feel the export requirements of the trade can be met by carcass meat."

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said yesterday that the cuts may have an impact on various Government functions including curtailment of the insurance division of the Department of Trade, which monitors the British insurance industry, and reduction in services provided by the Health and Safety Commission.

The unions have also in recent weeks drawn attention to the effects the cuts may have on various Government functions including curtailment of the insurance division of the Department of Trade, which monitors the British insurance industry, and reduction in services provided by the Health and Safety Commission.

The talks were arranged last night as drivers at two more docks, in Stevenage and Uttoxeter, Staffordshire, joined the strike. The meeting called to "review the situation" will involve the union's national negotiating committee.

It appears that shortages are now beginning to bite, particularly in Scotland where about 50 schools in the Strathclyde region are closed because of lack of heating oil. Glasgow's 850 buses will be in service only during rush hours today.

The dispute centres on Shell's use of contract labour which the union claims could lead to job losses. Shell employs about one fifth of the United Kingdom petrol market.

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OME NEWS

Angry prison officers eject 6% pay offer as 'miserly'

Peter Evans
Affairs Correspondent
Angry prison officers at an annual national conference in London yesterday alleged collusion between the May committee and the Home Office and included more pay than the pay report recommended.

"They want a substantial pay award as well as a pay rise," said one source. "The conference called the suggestion 'miserly'."

Pay negotiations should be set "with a minimum target of 6 per cent basic pay for officers with five years service with relevant rates for ranks and grades," the conference agreed.

Allegations of collusion from two officers, Mr Smith of Leeds said it was time to call the report independent. He said the Prison Association had a fine of December 1978 for submission of evidence.

"Association evidence has been submitted to the Home Office by the committee, he

referring to three volumes of evidence from the Home Office which was still being compiled as late as June 1979.

G. Elliott, of Manchester, said the May committee's "treacherous attack" on the pay of the prison service suggesting collusion to overtime.

The report said: "Sometimes it almost seems as if there were some collusion between them and staff."

Elliott said there was collusion by the Government to the prison officers to work overtime, because the

Budget cuts 'will make it better for my working poor to be unemployed'

Healy
Services Correspondent
Government was creating financial deterrents by imposing heavy public expenditure on the working poor, said David Donnison, an of the Supplementary Commission, said yesterday.

"School meals and transport fuel subsidies, housing and social services would in many ways be better off next summer than by going to work for themselves and their families," Professor Donnison said.

"Constant allegations we hear that the world of people living as consumers of society as mere taxpayers who have no sense of responsibility will not be the fault of

Council's home-buying ban breaks faith, Tory says

From Our Correspondent
Bristol
A Labour-controlled city council has accused yesterday of breaking its word to hundreds of council house tenants who want to buy their homes.

The claim was made after the housing committee of Bristol City Council banned the sale of council houses, including 580 under negotiation.

Nearly 1,000 people are likely to be affected by the move which was called "left-wing inspired" and "dogmatic" by Mr Robert Wall, a Conservative councillor, who drew up his party's plans for selling council houses.

Mr Wall said yesterday: "The Labour Party on the council have acted terribly up now and in my view they are under pressure from their left-wing members."

"The Conservative policy is

to prevent them from doing so.

Opposition spokesman

on security indicated that enforcers would still suffice. They would be those with capital of more than £10,000, who would become eligible for supplementary benefit.

Mrs Chalker said that it was not possible to say what maximum loss would be in the benefit rates for November 1980, had been set and cases reassessed.

A decision would be needed to take into account the fact that written notice of assessment provided for the Bill, and an additional 10 staff would be required with cases of special difficulty.

But those increases be offset by reductions in staff who would be released from working on school cases. The Bill delays new benefit increase until the end of the year.

Chalker, answering a question on the Bill tabled by Mr Jeffrey, accompanying White tabled by Mr Jeffrey.

Opposition spokesman

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enforcers would still suffice. They would be those with capital of more than £10,000, who would become eligible for supplementary benefit.

The expected public benefit in the form of price-cutting will not, however, take place. The operators say they cannot cut fares across the board at a time of rapidly rising ship and fuel costs.

For the first time it will pay the cross-Channel passenger to shop around because the competitive battle of 1980 will take the form of bargain offers.

British Rail, for example, will offer £10 off each summer booking made as early as January. That kind of offer will conclude with variations for much of the year.

British Rail is hampered by the late delivery of its ships.

Channel bargains to offset 15% fare rise

Michael Baily
Correspondent

Ferry fares are due to rise by about 15% next summer, but the rise will be softened by a range of service bargain fares that are available except in the winter weeks.

was disclosed by British Rail in Belfast when Sir Peter Britton, chairman, the first of the two big ships at Harland and Wolff shipyard. High winds delayed the launching.

British Rail's decision to put ferry fares is sure to be followed by other operators will be an exception to cross-Channel ferries.

unprecedented quantity of

Journalist from Chile being held in detention

By a Staff Reporter

The Government thus saved expenditure on pay, 7,000 uniforms and 3,500 uniforms at £20,000 each. He asked: "Has the Government bought the loyalty of the Armed Forces and police as part of the law and order manifesto? They were preaching prior to the election." Were they now ignoring that prison officers were an integral part of the law and order system?

But Mr John Gunnin of Ashford Remand Centre produced government figures to show comparisons with police and firemen. The basic pay of a prison officer was £71.20, a sergeant £91.80 and a policeman £84.60.

On average a policeman worked 5.8 hours overtime a week for £15.10. Comparable figures for firemen were an hour and half for £2.20 and for a prison officer 18 hours for £7.80.

The conference was told that prison officers had been trying to oust the party with the police since 1983.

In an impassioned speech, Mr Jack McCoolin, of Northern Ireland, said the May inquiry was "an insult to the memory of my colleagues who have lost their lives". Unanimously the conference passed a motion viewing "with concern the failure of the May Committee to grasp the particular problems... in Northern Ireland".

Before the conference began delegates stood in silence in tribute to Mr William Wright, prison officer shot dead the night before.

The conference continues today.

Savings in education services would also be at the expense of the working poor, since the proposals give families no supplementary benefit would not be available to them.

Professor Donnison called for better child benefits for the working poor with children to support as well as for those out of work; a reform of housing benefits to give the same help to families in and out of work; and a comprehensive fuel subsidy for poorer people. Each of those proposals would help to restore incentives to work, he said.

Rising fuel prices were causing huge profits on gas, electricity and oil supplies, and those profits would rise still further.

Professor Donnison called for a small part of their money to be devoted to the protection of the poor, consumers, "the proper social responsibility of monopoly suppliers of a vital service".

He has no such fears this

time and was selected from 300 applicants. A solid, easy-going company director from Surrey, he is strong on law and order.

It encompasses the extravagant Palladian splendour of Moor Park golf clubhouse, and a Greater London Council estate of 10,000 voters at South Ockhey,

where the council houses sold

to their occupants are instantly recognizable by the Olde English and Swiss chalet-style do-it-yourself ornamentation.

Nearly 60 per cent of homes

in the constituency are owner-occupied, and about 10,000 constituents travel daily to London.

The suburb of Chorleywood is said to own more cars per head than anywhere else in the United Kingdom.

Local political issues are muted; there is minimal unemployment and only the route of the M25 London orbital motorway raises party voices above a whisper.

Campaigning, therefore, is based exclusively on the national issues of the day, with monetary policy the overriding concern.

Ladbrooke is not even offering odds on a change of occupancy, only on the size of the Tory majority, with a narrow

swing of 5,000 and 7,000 the nine-to-two favourite.

Hertfordshire, South-West forms a doughty of suburban commuter territory, 20 miles from the City, with the town of Watford as the hole in the middle.

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Carlos Reyes, aged 36, a

photographer with a wife and two children still in Panama, was arrested by General Pinochet's secret police in 1974, tortured, and detained for two years in camps and prisons. In 1976 he was expelled to Panama, where he worked for the Spanish news agency EFE.

On November 23 last, for no

clear reason, he was arrested in

Panama, questioned for two days without food or water, and put in an aircraft to Santiago, Chile. Thanks to church intervention, he was sent back to Panama, where he worked for the Spanish news agency EFE.

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HOME NEWS

Cornish threat of rebellion against Labour HQ subsides

From Trevor Fishlock
Falmouth

The trumpeted divorce between the so-called Labour rebels of Falmouth and Camborne, and the Labour Party, has turned out to be only a melodramatic gesture.

The Cornishmen voiced their fears about what was seen as Labour's leftward list, and said they would cease to be affiliated to the main party. In fact they could not pay the £240 affiliation fee for 1980 because their party is in debt. But the affiliation question was used to emphasize anxiety, and the consequent storm has left the party confused and upset by charge and countercharge.

In any case it seems likely that the fee will be paid and the party will stay affiliated.

Certainly there is annoyance and concern in the local party about what is happening in the Labour Party as a whole. It is true that the Cornishmen have told Transport House that because of the discontent they have lost the incentive to raise money. But according to senior members, the affiliation fee would have been paid in the usual way had the party been in funds, rather than £400 in debt.

The origin of the ballyhoo over the Falmouth rebellion lies not only in discontent but in a letter from the Falmouth party to Labour headquarters in London. The letter gave an account of the local party's management committee meeting on October 12 and said that members were unhappy about some of the events at Labour's annual conference.

The letter stated that left-wing views expressed on three

IRA killings bring staff crisis to Ulster jails

From Christopher Thomas
Belfast

The prison service in Northern Ireland faces a crisis over the repeated assassination of warders by the Provisional IRA, which says the attacks will continue until its imprisoned members get political status.

Mr William Wright, aged 58, a senior prison officer who was in charge of security at Crumlin jail, Belfast, was the eighth warder shot dead this year. He was killed as he arrived home from work in his car on Monday night.

Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said last night: "This latest brutal killing, which is designed simply to keep alive a sordid propaganda campaign in support of people who have been sentenced by the courts for very serious crimes, can affect only total condemnation."

The Government was constrained as a matter of urgency to intensify measures to recruit warders, he said. "It is my hope that the widespread revulsion caused by the death of Mr Wright will be translated into the widest possible support from the community for those who have the task of bringing his killer or killers to justice."

Senior prison officers have set up a branch of the Ulster Defence Association, and their deaths have had a serious impact on recruitment. Despite intensive advertising in the past few years, to about 2,500.

This year's figures for acts of violence show a marked increase over 1978, with the exception of civilian deaths. The number of murdered soldiers is up, with 33 killed so far compared with 14 in 1978.

Equity wants £5m TV fund to encourage live shows

By Martin Huckerby
Theatre Reporter

The actors' union, Equity, has demanded in its annual pay claim that the independent television companies provide about £5m for a fund to support live entertainment and the employment for performers whose work is endangered by cuts and inflation.

It argues that independent television depends on a large pool of talented performers, mainly in live theatre, and that the companies should provide the money for the collective benefit of performers who had done so much for television.

The union wants the fund to be run by a committee of representatives from the entertainment unions and the employers, including the television companies, film producers and theatre managements.

It expected that the fund would be used initially to plug gaps left by the cuts, saving theatres and other companies which otherwise might close. But in the long run it would want to use the money for new ventures in live entertainment, films and television.

Equity said a similar arrangement covering the fourth television channel would be a precondition of its members accepting work on the proposed channel.

Vehicle licensing transfer plan attacked

From Our Correspondent
Dublin

The long-awaited European agreement on the suppression of terrorism was signed in Dublin yesterday by all nine members of the EEC.

It is designed to ensure that all political terrorists in member countries stand trial because, even if extradition is refused on political grounds, the country where the accused is held is under an obligation to put him or her on trial.

It leaves the question of extradition to be decided by each individual country.

Terrorism pact signed by Nine in Dublin

From Our Correspondent
Dublin

A range of specified terrorist offences such as bombing, kidnapping and hijacking will now be subject to the new legislation and suspects can be tried in any country regardless of where in the Community the offence was committed.

As Ireland originally refused to sign the convention, arguing that it was incompatible with the terms of its constitution, and other member states had reservations, debate on the issue had been going on for some time.

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New Bill will give councils more freedom to determine their own priorities

Local authorities that overspend will have grant taken away

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

only will an authority receive no more grant; it will have to alter how they please.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, told a press conference that the present system provided a positive disincentive to economic because the more a council spent the more grant it received. "The change to the block grant is a direct disincentive to increase expenditure."

The Government's declared intention is to give more responsibility to local authorities with less control from central Government.

Mr William Wright, aged 58, a senior prison officer who was in charge of security at Crumlin jail, Belfast, was the eighth warder shot dead this year. He was killed as he arrived home from work in his car on Monday night.

First among the proposals is a change in the Government's rate support grant. A new block grant system, designed to relate each local authority's entitlement to its "standard expenditure", is fixed by the Government and the grant determined by relating it to the "ratable value of the authority's area". That will be introduced as the standard grant system in 1981-82.

The Bill also provides for arrangements to impose similar standards of overspend on local authorities.

Another important provision is the introduction of controls over the capital expenditure of local authorities. At present, councils have to receive government permission for large projects.

The Bill will apply to a restricted number of councillors whose allowances will shortly be increased to a maximum of £13.28 a day.

For the first time, the Bill lays down that certain councillors should receive special responsibility payments.

They can finance other projects by borrowing on the money market. Under the new proposals, the Government will set a limit for spending, but will

allow councils to spend their allocation how they please.

In addition, money assigned to a particular service may be transferred to another, and money may be transferred between a county council and a district council to finance projects.

"It is intended that local authorities should have more freedom to determine their own priorities, so that they are run as separate and accountable trading bodies in free competition with the private sector and with a reasonable rate of return on the capital they employ. The Government is determined that direct labour organisations must be shown to be efficient or scrapped."

Councillors are to continue to receive attendance allowances, which will shortly be increased to a maximum of £13.28 a day.

Commenting on the Bill, Mr Noel Hopwood, director of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, said that the Government was shifting its grip on local government by relaxing some minor controls.

A clause running through the Bill is the need for better information about local authority spending so that councillors and ratepayers can establish what is being spent and where.

Mr Heseltine regarded this as

the key to strengthening local democracy.

The Bill will give power to ensure that essential information is freely available, including appropriate comparative information about the performance and efficiency of different authorities.

There is to be better accountability for local authority direct labour organizations, so that they are run as separate and accountable trading bodies in free competition with the private sector and with a reasonable rate of return on the capital they employ.

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Register to identify building land hoards is proposed

By John Young
Planning Reporter

which was owned by the public sector.

The Bill provides for copies of the register to be available for public inspection at council offices, and for the information it contains to be supplied on request. In both cases the council will be empowered to charge a reasonable fee.

The register is intended to identify land which is not being used for the purposes of the authority that owns it.

Ministers hope that it will bring pressure to bear on councils which accumulated land for possible future housing needs, road schemes and so on, and on statutory undertakings such as British Rail and the Gas Boards, which frequently have been accused of wasteful hoarding.

Land and land use were crucial to the whole question of stimulating the economy, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, said yesterday. In Liverpool alone there were more than 1,000 acres of derelict land, most of

which took the last Government moulds to draft and was intended to end speculative profits, which is repealed in a single word sentence. The only survivor is the Land Authority for Wales, which is still involved with some land.

Paradoxically, more

land is needed for better planning functions of county and district associations, the Bill seems likely to because as much as to enlighten.

In broad terms, the intention appears to be that, except in the case of mineral workings or land lying within a national Park, the district council should be assumed to have jurisdiction and need refer to the county council only what it considers to be "county matters".

The Bill will enable the Government to introduce fees for planning applications and for appeals against refusals. The scale of the fees will be determined in separate regulations, which may allow for remissions or refunds in certain circumstances.

The Community Land Act, which took the last Government

which states that it

should apply to between three and eight members in such a constituency.

The Bill is to be abolished, as is already known, and the Bill provides the substitution of powers to order revaluation of non-domestic property when appropriate and if necessary for non-domestic property.

It also provides for the extension of domestic rate relief to domestic properties, and the extension of the right to pay rates by instalments, especially to small businesses.

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The Community Land Act, which took the last Government

Mr Dell seeks 'outsider' ministers

By Peter Hennessy

Mr Edmund Dell, chairman of the Guinness Peat Group and Secretary of State for Trade from 1976 to 1978, called last night for ministers to be appointed from outside Parliament. The present system produced "too many inadequate ministers", he declared.

The suggestion was part of a wider attack on what Mr Dell regards as the damaging myth of collective ministerial responsibility, delivered during a Royal Institute of Public Administration lecture in London. There existed outside Parliament, he said, "some people who carry more credibility with significant sections of opinion than almost anyone else in the House of Commons".

Mr Dell contended that ministers appointed by the Prime Minister from outside Parliament should be allowed to speak in the Commons. He said:

It would be easier for some outsiders not MPs to join the Cabinet, starting perhaps with representation of the law office of the Crown from outside the House, but for the House to allow them a voice in it.

Perhaps it would also be necessary to permit the television cameras in, in order to expose decent behaviour to ministers who might not understand the customs of the House.

If the notion of collective responsibility was abandoned, Mr Dell concluded that the system of government with an association of power in the hands of the Prime Minister.

Mr Dell will become as an expert on the area.

Ultimately most independent television regions will have their own Oracle services, providing about 200 pages of local news, weather, sports results and general information.

The first of those, in the Westward area, is expected to be working early next summer.

Advertising pages, free until the Home Office approves a rate card, will become an important part of the service.

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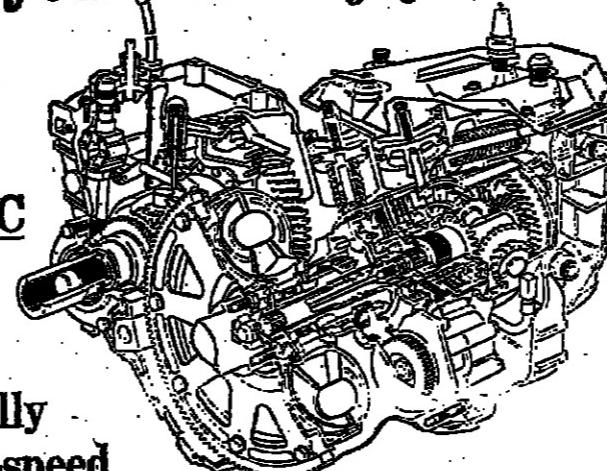
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PARLIAMENT, December 4, 1979

Too many authorities cutting services instead of bureaucrats

House of Commons
Too many authorities were cutting services to the public when they should be reducing bureaucracy, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister, said during questions. She said a lot of reductions could be made in public service administration and she hoped that ministers were leaders for savings in public services.

Mr Ivor Stansfeld (Bromley, Orgreave, C) Since the present high level of the minimum lending rate, and therefore of building society interest rates, is due to the continuing high level of public spending and Government borrowing, and since some form of substantial and rapid reduction would falsely that the economies they make can only be made at the expense of services to the public, will she give a lead to a citizens' campaign to search out, expose and destroy bureaucracy, waste, overmanning and general inefficiency?

Mrs Thatcher (Barnet, Finchley, C) I agree with his thesis that high public expenditure leads to high public borrowing and that high public borrowing leads to high interest rates. Looking back over the period of the last Labour Government, the time when we had low interest rates was when the IMF insisted that we reduced public expenditure and the public sector borrowing requirement to £5,500m. Interest rates were rapidly reduced from between 9 per cent that year to 5 per cent.

Mr Fergus Montgomery (Aldermaston, Sale, C) Has she noted the Daily Express report calling on individual local authorities to public expenditure savings. We have implemented some of them. I believe there is some way to go. (Conservative cheers.)

Some signs of rally in shipbuilding market

House of Lords
There were some signs of a rally in the shipbuilding market. Viscount Trenchard, Minister of State for Industry, said when he moved the second reading of the Shipbuilding Bill. But (he added) they must be viewed in the context of the orders for ships placed in the last two years have been below the level required to sustain British Shipbuilders' preferred strategy so they still find it difficult to sustain that strategy.

Ship prices in some areas have firmed up a little, in general they remain too low.

He said the Bill, which has passed the Commons, would increase British Shipbuilders' statutory redundancy power £50m which could be increased by another £500m. The Bill would also widen the scope of the Home Credit Scheme to include conversions of ships and mobile offshore platforms owned by United Kingdom owners in United Kingdom ports.

Nobody could be sure how long the new limits would suffice. Next year, improved results were expected. The Government and British Shipbuilders were determined to reduce the corporation's losses and to get on the road towards improved viability.

Viscount Simon (L) said one of the advantages of nationalisation was that a single owner was better placed than a number of independent shipbuilders to negotiate agreements with other countries. Lord Alfie (C) said the Bill should provide a breathing-space for the British industry and reduce uncertainty. They were in the middle of a world recession and there was great overcapacity internationally in this industry.

Lord Shinwell (Lab) said they should be discussing, debating, and investigating why the United Kingdom's shipbuilding industry had declined so rapidly in the past 25 or 30 years. The last two years were responsible for the abandonment of the House should have the facts. Who was responsible for bad timekeeping? It was just possible that the management was not as efficient as it might have been and investigate. A remedy had to be found.

Viscount Rochdale (C) said he was glad to hear there was some hope of efforts to improve productivity being successful but it would be a long, slow struggle.

Lord Brian of Donington (Lab) said there should be a free play of the forces of competition, a basic Tory philosophy, meant that a decline in shipbuilding was bound to continue. Now, the Tories were making half a turn to attack the problem rationally.

It was wrong to assume that nothing could be done to improve demand for shipbuilding. Nearly 30 per cent of the tonnage built were nearly obsolete and standard ships under flags of convenience were an evil.

Viscount Trenchard said British Shipbuilders had recently assumed the role of a financial adviser on course to stay within their cash and loss limits for 1979 and 1980. There was no doubt that management and employees were set on the target in front of them. They had reached a creditable agreement.

The diagnosis called for by Lord Shinwell had largely been done. Post mortems were inclined not to bury the patient but to move him. There was a growing degree of realism by management and employees that the industry must be made competitive and that the major part of it needed to be done internally.

The Bill was read a second time.

£47m tax retrieved

Lord Cockfield (Minister of State, Treasury) I shall begin to answer a question in the year to October 31, 1978, the total charge raised by the Inland Revenue as a result of detected tax evasion was £47m. In the year to October 1977, the figure was £35m and in the year to October 31, 1976, it was £22m.

The Bill was read a second time.

Partnership in industry does not need legislation

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment Is in favour of greater cooperation between management and workers, but does not want to introduce legislation in this area.

Mr James Callaghan, Leader of the Opposition (Cardiff, South-East, Lab)—On relieving the hardship suffered by those paying high mortgage interest rates, would start a crusade to ensure that they get their tax rebate early? A notice that the Inland Revenue would not be able to meet these higher tax rebates due.

Although the interest will be paid on January 1, they will not be able to meet it for some months. As this can amount to £2 to £3 a week or a month, what about a crusade to see if she can stir up the Inland Revenue?

Mrs Thatcher—When changes are made to the tax system, that is what they are there for.

Mr Michael Laiham (Merton, C)—Would the Prime Minister consider putting Mr Joe Barber, Sir Guy Newall and Ronan Labon, former Secretaries of the Treasury in charge of the public sector crusade to save expenditure? (Conservative cheers.)

Mrs Thatcher—I have read what Mr Barber said on many occasions. He said there would be no public expenditure savings. We have implemented some of them. I believe there is some way to go. (Conservative cheers.)

Expensive coke taking jobs

If the steel industry was forced to buy expensive coke some steelworkers would be deprived of their jobs. Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister, said when the action banning foreign coke imports at the docks was raised at question time.

Mr Anthony Marlow (Northampton, North, C) asked her to consider the problems the steel industry faces in getting the right choice imported whenever it wanted at the cheapest price.

Mrs Thatcher—I am concerned on a number of counts, not least that the steel industry which needs to buy cheap coke does not seem able to have the agreement of the National Union of Mineworkers to do so.

The Bill was read a first time.

MP's Bill to put a date

On every map

Mr Clement Freud (Isle of Ely, L) successfully applied for permission to introduce a Bill to make illegal the practice of marking maps of Britain.

Mrs Thatcher—I am concerned on a number of counts, not least that the steel industry which needs to buy cheap coke does not seem able to have the agreement of the National Union of Mineworkers to do so.

The Bill was read a first time.

Dust disease regulations start on January 1

Mr Jack Ashley (Stocks-on-Trent, South, Lab)—There is a deep sense of grievance by many pneumoconiosis sufferers and their trade unions about the operation of the present system of applying compensation. He asked the Minister of Health and Social Security about the abolition of the Pneumoconiosis Medical Boards and its replacement by general practitioners and local consultants who can give evidence.

Mr Mayhew—The Board is not one for which I am responsible although I take an interest in these matters. The regulations under the Act are the entitlement to benefit to those following the findings of the Board, or else death benefit.

Mr Frederick Burden (Gillingham, C)—Has the situation of people suffering from asbestos been considered?

Mr Mayhew—This is included within the Act. Entitlement of widows going back beyond five years will be looked after in the regulations.

Mr Harold Walker, an Opposition spokesman on employment (Doncaster, Lab)—There is widespread dissatisfaction with the case reported in The Guardian that there were 200,000 miners who have a low percentage of dust now, but which will increase later. What is the case for miners?

Mr Mayhew—I am grateful for his opening remarks. The state quartermen and other sufferers of this disease, affected by the Act, will be entitled to compensation in the same conditions, together with the fact that their diseases have a different pattern of progression from coal pneumoconiosis.

This will take place within a few weeks of the coming into operation of the regulations on January 1.

Mr Mayhew—I will examine the case to which he refers.

Review of training: much money being wasted

Government action to deal with wasted expenditure on skills training was welcomed by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, during question time.

I am deeply dissatisfied with the way in which a number of institutions are spending on training as a nation. Yet we have more vacancies for skilled people than ever before.

Something is not right with our vocational training system. It is needed and is taking place. In due course we will present proposals to the House.

Mr John Radhouse (Lewes, C) had asked what proportion of trainees in the Training Opportunities Programme had subsequently entered employment in their field of training or related work.

Mr Prior—I do not believe I am cutting back on any subsidies which are going into the provision of skills for tomorrow. But there is a lot of wasted expenditure in training boards as in other training services. We are determined to put this right.

Mr Prior—I do not believe I am cutting back on any subsidies which are going into the provision of skills for tomorrow. But there is a lot of wasted expenditure in training boards as in other training services. We are determined to put this right.

Heritage fund

The National Heritage Bill received an unopposed second reading on Monday night.

Parliamentary notices

House of Commons Today at 2.30: Debate on White Paper on Government Expenditure Plan. Motion: Work and Income Resolution on Petroleum Revenue Tax.

House of Lords Today at 2.30: Debate on Petrol and unemployment.

Closing immigration loophole of arranged marriages: Mr Whitelaw fulfils election mandate: two concessions

New immigration rules will give two categories of women the right to have husbands and fiancés brought abroad to join them, instead of merely giving immigration officers discretion to allow entry.

Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary (Prestwich and Bredbury, C) announced the concession in response to representations which had told him he had been born abroad, who had been born in Britain and those who had been born abroad only because at the time their parents happened to be there.

Mr Whitelaw moved that the House approved the proposal for revision of the immigration rules contained in the White Paper.

He said his mind was closed to suggestions for modification of the draft rules in the White Paper.

There were certain categories of people with a continuing claim to come to Britain for temporary purposes in the United Kingdom, he always had been extremely generous in taking people from all parts of the world, who found themselves in difficulties.

The latest example was the 10,000 Vietnamese refugees they were committed to accept. An earlier example was the 10,000 Ugandan refugees, holders from East Africa. They had always been very good guests of the Post Office.

Mr Prior (Lowestoft, C)—I wish to avoid legislation on this front because I think it might have precisely the opposite result. But everything we can do to persuade and cajole management into better communication and better involvement on the shop floor is essential if we are to get out of our industrial relations difficulties.

Mr Giles Radice (Chester-le-Street, Lab)—If he is really interested in wider industrial participation, will he make representations to the TUC and CGT to encourage them to support the new arrangements?

Mr Prior—Yes, I believe firmly that there are a lot of reduc-

tions to be made in administration in public services of one kind or another. Too many authorities are cutting services to the public and that should be doing is reducing the bureaucracy.

It has been suggested that women born here should have a right to be joined by a husband and to support and accommodate them.

In future, they would also have to show that they were without relatives in their own country to whom they could turn when they had a reasonable standard of living.

It does not follow that they should have a right, and not a duty, to be joined by a husband or fiancé.

I have considered those arguments with care. One said "we have great force". I am glad to be able to inform the House that I accept them.

The new rules would incorporate that.

No woman would be able to bring in a husband or fiancé to the marriage was primarily made to obtain admission or if one party no longer had a home in the United Kingdom.

Otherwise entry permission would not qualify for entry save in the most exceptional circumstances.

A number of other changes in the rules were designed to make it easier for people to come to Britain for temporary purposes to prolong their stay without the object of achieving settlement or going to ground and evading the controls altogether.

These would be introduced con-

cerned with the operation of immigration control that was constant and massive pressure against that country, and that it was the Indian sub-continent that from all over the world came to Britain.

It is right and proper (he said) that persons in Britain have a choice of living with relatives here or in their own country, the presumption should be that they should come here.

Parents and grandparents under 65 and more distant relatives would not qualify for entry save in the most exceptional circumstances.

The combined effect of this revision should be a more practical, effective and reasonable set of rules with which the immigration services could work in the often thankless but highly important task of controlling and managing immigration.

As with the measures relating to husbands and fiancées, these had to be seen against the background of the commitment into which this country entered when it became a member of the European Community.

These were requirements in the rules that a sponsor in the United Kingdom should be able to bring in a husband or fiancé to settle in Britain.

It is right and proper that the measures relating to husbands and fiancées would have to be carried through in accordance with the provisions of the convention of Human Rights.

There was no intention to prevent husbands and fiancées from coming to Britain for temporary purposes.

Mr Whitelaw said that that was a matter for the court when they considered it.

He rejected entirely the accusations of racial discrimination.

Increasing numbers of children from ethnic minority groups were born in Britain.

There was no intention to prevent wives bringing in husbands and fiancées from overseas.

Important lessons had been learned about the use and handling of landing and immigration cards. To make selective checks on passengers easier, the number of cards being collected was being reduced.

The Government had been able to take account of the problems of those preparing to leave the country.

Under the new rules, there would be anomalies. There could be a temporary purpose while his wife claimed to be coming here for a permanent purpose.

After husbands and fiancées had started most attention was the tightening up of the requirements for the admission of dependants to a marriage that had been registered.

This was another of the things to affect the position of the girl born abroad because her parents happened to be out of the country at the time of her birth.

It is not part of my intention to affect the position of the girl born abroad because her parents happened to be out of the country at the time of her birth.

The Government had said they would do. It could not accept immigration controls solely on the basis of people's place of birth.

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Patricia Clough

Dec 4

Hermann Schmidt, the German Chancellor, said today that he will meet President Brezhnev and Erich Honecker, the East German leader, some time next year.

news was seen here as a just despite a massive and threatening propaganda campaign against West Europe, over the siting of nuclear missiles in Europe, the communists to maintain, or even better, relax.

Germany has been subjected to intense pressure from the forthcoming NATO summit on the missiles. The threats of dire consequences for its relations with European neighbours, particularly East Germany, Mr Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, said in Bonn that such a decision would destroy all possibility of control on arms limitation.

Schmidt has long been said to meet Herr Honecker when he left the EEC yesterday. The cement that the two have a "worldly" agreement as a sign that the Europeans have come to the fact that the missile is unavoidable.

Nonetheless, West Germans' desire to be made negotiating partners ministers in East Berlin week and when the council meets on Dec 12 and 13. The indication that the missile is not as hard sounds has been by Sovier journalists to explain that they had been misinterpreted. German, and the version was much less promising.

Schmidt and Herr Genscher, the German Foreign Minister, insisted that he did not negotiate in them, and have re-expressed confidence in their decision will take place after a decision has been

me. Herr Schmidt was to deal with dissenters in his party who are unhappy with his policy of freezing the deployment of missiles, and then, while being manufactured, with the Soviet about limiting their

left-wingers in the Democratic Party concerned would rather not missiles at all or else on their numbers a decision on deployment. Herr Schmidt firmly insisted that he support him both on his disputed energy policy. As Chancellor, he could not practice policies for searching his conscience if he felt to be wrong, as he could not take responsibility for it.

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Dutch envoy recalled from France in Rhine pollution dispute

From Robert Schulz
Amsterdam, Dec 4

In a move of diplomatic displeasure the Dutch Government today recalled its ambassador to France. Jonkheer Johan de Ruijter, the Ambassador, was called back for consultations after the French Government had decided not to submit a convention against the pollution of the Rhine to the National Assembly for ratification.

The convention was signed in Bonn in 1976 between France, Switzerland, Luxembourg, West Germany, and the Netherlands.

It provided for an end to the practice of dumping salt from the French state-owned potash mines in Alsace into the river.

According to the convention, France had to store the salt on its own territory. The Netherlands promised nearly 110m towards the installation of underground storage space. Some 25m had already been paid to the French authorities, but the money has since been returned.

The Dutch Government today expressed great surprise and deep disappointment over the French move. It has begun consultations with the other signatories to the convention to decide what action can be taken.

Some 20 million tonnes of salt pass through Holland every day as the Rhine makes its way to the North Sea. The 50,000 tonnes of salt from the Alsace mines are considered to be quite harmful. For Holland the Rhine is a source of drinking water as well as water for irrigation in periods of drought. Money to be repaid: France is to reimburse West Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands, which have so far jointly paid 92m francs (£10.2m) towards the work of cleaning up the river. Luxembourg, the other

signatory, has not paid anything. (Ian Murray writes from Paris).

The four other countries ratified the agreement last year ago and President Giscard d'Estrées said in a television broadcast during his last summit meeting in West Germany two months ago that as France had signed the agreement it would be ratified.

Forty per cent of the Rhine's 18 million tonnes of salt pollution each year are poured into the river from the works of the Alsace potash mines. The Bonn convention requires the mines to reduce its salt waste input into the Rhine from 150 kilograms (260lb) a second to 70 kilograms (154lb) a second pumping brine a mile underground.

This scheme ran into strong local opposition in Alsace, largely from farmers who believed that this would have a long-term effect on the soil. The ratification has in consequence been put off repeatedly despite repeated requests from the Dutch Government to hurry things up.

The French decision was hailed as a victory by Gaullist members of the National Assembly, who have campaigned against the pollution of the soil of the Upper Rhine. Trade union spokesmen, however, fear that we now have a danger of the potash mines being obliged to reduce its output in order to reduce the amount of pollution poured into the river. They are urging the Government to allow the company to market its salt rather than pour it away.

In refusing to ratify the convention, France has listened to the local pressure groups which claim that potash mining in the area has only a limited future.

As refusing to ratify the convention, France has listened to the local pressure groups which claim that potash mining in the area has only a limited future.

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Dec 4

An emergency plan to reduce pollution went into effect here today, following one of the smoggiest weeks on record in the capital.

The measures, contained in an order issued by the provincial government, include:

A ban on the use of central heating except between 2 pm and 10 pm; a crackdown on illegal parking, in an attempt to discourage the use of private cars;

an obligation to deliver most merchandise before 9.30 am; and strict enforcement of regulations which penalise excessive contamination from vehicle exhausts.

The other measures are closer inspections in industry to enforce legislation on contamination and prohibition on burning leaves or other solid wastes.

The order went into effect at midnight last night and will be enforced for 45 days. Steiff penalties are in store for violators.

Iceland's poll results favour centre

Reykjavik, Dec 4.—Final results in Iceland's general election published today showed significant gains for the centre Progressive Party but the formation of a new government appeared to have run into difficulty.

The Progressives who shared power until October in a left-wing coalition gained five seats giving them a total of 17 in the 60-member thing (Parliament).

An expected swing towards the right-wing Independence Party largely failed to materialise but with 21 seats, a gain of one, it remained the largest grouping in the Althing.

Mr Benedikt Grendal, the caretaker Prime Minister, was expected to visit President Kristjan Eldjara later today to offer his resignation.

Mr Steingrímur Hermannsson, a leader of the Progressive Party, said he wanted to continue the coalition with the Social Democrats and the Communists.

But both those parties lost seats in the election and their leaders expressed doubts today about reviving the alliance.

The original coalition, formed in September, 1976, collapsed two months ago when the Social Democrats withdrew because of the Government's failure to deal with inflation, now running at a rate of 83 per cent.

Mr Geir Halgrímsson, the leader of the Independent Party, said he was disappointed by the results. His party had campaigned on a platform of all-out war on inflation but the results suggested that the voters feared the party's proposed measures would prove too harsh.

The final results were as follows: Independence Party 21 seats (20 in the 1976 election), Progressive Party 17 (12), Social Democrats 10 (14), Communists 11 (14). One breakaway member of the Independence Party was elected.

Reuter.

New centre for rebel churchman

Econe, Switzerland, Dec 4.—Mgr Marcel Lefebvre, the archbishop who defied the Vatican over liturgical reforms, has moved his headquarters to a village near Basel.

He founded his first traditional seminary here nine years ago and was suspended from all priestly duties in 1976.

Reuter.



Unsuccessful. Keeping up her campaign against the animal experimenters Brigitte Bardot, the actress, outside a Marseilles court yesterday with a lawyer for the French League against Vivisection. Their much-publicised case against Professor Henri Sarles was thrown out, however, by the magistrates, our Paris Correspondent writes, the court ruling that

the league was "not officially recognized as one of public usefulness". Unperturbed, the anti-vivisectionists announced they would return to court with the help of an organization which does have official standing. They claim that Professor Sarles' experiments on discovering the effects of alcohol on dogs have killed 3,500 animals in six years.

Second letter on Bokassa diamond 'gift'

From Ian Murray
Paris, Dec 4

The French satirical weekly, *Le Canard Enchaîné*, is publishing a key document in its issue this week concerning the gift of a spray of diamonds it is seeking to prove was made to President Giscard d'Estrées by the former Emperor Bokassa of Central Africa.

The journal earlier published a 1973 letter apparently from Mr Bokassa to the Comptoir National du Diamant de l'Etat (the state-owned bureau of diamonds) ordering that the spray be delivered to M. Giscard d'Estrées, who was then Minister of Finance.

The new document, which again bears what *Le Canard*

Enchaîné alleges to be Mr Bokassa's signature, is another letter to the bureau and dated July 11, 1974. This letter asks for information about the state of the order for the "sprays" being prepared for H. Giscard d'Estrées, who by that time had been elected President.

According to the magazine these sprays were handed over to the President during a visit by Mr Bokassa to France in September, 1974. A list of diamond presents supposedly made by Mr Bokassa to the President is included in the issue.

During his interview on French television last week President Giscard d'Estrées was asked about the supposed gift. The man who was

asked about the supposed gift

WEU assembly resists Community arms role

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Dec 4

A British report on the effects of Middle East events on Western European security was discussed today by delegates from Britain and its six partners in the Western European Union Assembly.

In Afghanistan, Soviet penetration was much more serious than many people in the West recognized, the report said. Its author, Sir Frederic Bemer, applauded the Camp David accord between Israel and Egypt, but said the Palestinians must be allowed to negotiate for themselves.

Delegates rejected the suggestion that the EEC acquire a role in the European arms industry.

The Assembly called upon all countries of the world to ban arms shipments to Iran. The ban, proposed by Sir Frederic, Conservative leader of the British delegation to the WEU, was originally to cover only member countries of the WEU. But leaders of all delegations asked him to widen the ban.

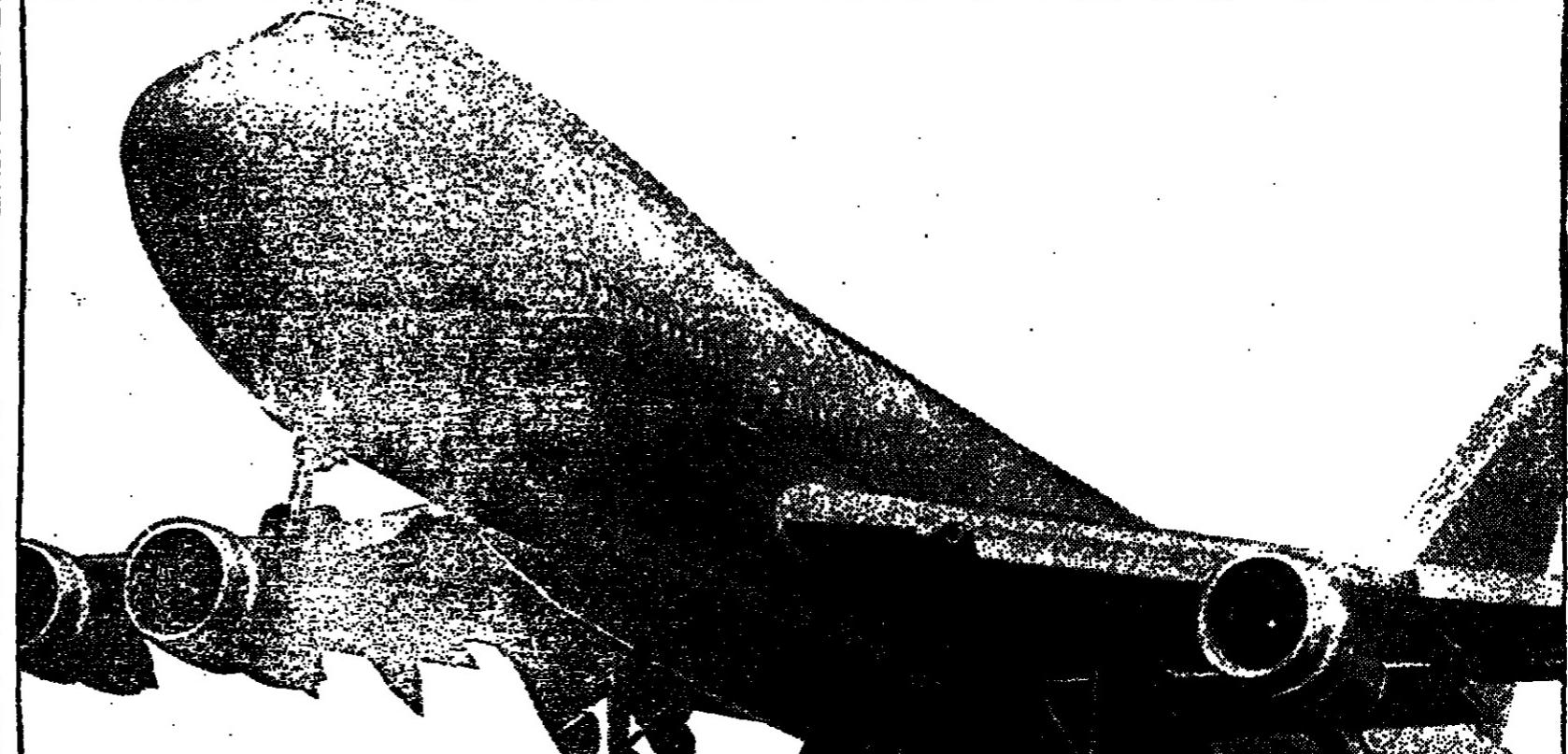
The French delegation had proposed a stream of amendments from British Labour members, largely watered it down to avoid any impression of denigrating the Camp David settlement and undue emphasis on the Palestinian case. Most of the French delegation had supported the resolution yesterday.

Mr Not even Hitler during the last war went so far as to interfere with the sanctity of diplomatic relations", Sir Frederic emphasized in a speech introducing his report on Western European security and the Middle East. "The unlawful detention of American citizens inside and outside the American Embassy in Tehran is in total breach of a convention stretching back centuries."

The revolution in Iran has turned sour, he said, and the worsening situation now was a threat not only to the economic stability of Europe, but also to Western security.

In Afghanistan, the huge number of refugees crossing into Pakistan—the latest estimates were 300,000—was a "new element of misery caused, it must be said, by the Soviet Union". Russia was making a determined attempt to turn Afghanistan into a new satellite with the ultimate aim of penetrating Pakistan. There is a very great threat of the collapse of Pakistan.

Turning to the Middle East, he said that though 25 years old this year, "the WEU has not aged".



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Age: 40s-45s

ERSEAS

Former Korean CIA chief's trial for murder is suspended

By Hazelhurst

former members of Korea's Central Intelligence (KCIA) appeared in court today. He has been charged with murder with intent to commit sedition and attempted sedition. Mr. Kim Kae Won has been similarly charged.

Both were close confidants and advisers of President Park and until the assassination South Koreans had no hint of a rift within the hierarchy.

According to the Government's version of the incident, Mr. Kim left the dinner party in a special KCIA dining room within the palace grounds and returned with a revolver after President Park and his close friend and chief bodyguard, Mr. Cha Chik Choi, had chastised the head of the KCIA over his handling of students in Pusan and Moran in October.

Apparently, Mr. Cha, a hardliner, claimed that the students had erupted because the KCIA had refused to take a tough line.

Mr. Kim was later arrested by General Chung Sung Wa, joint chief of staff at the Ministry of Defence. Most areas of South Korea were placed under martial law and Mr. Choi Kyu-Hah, the Prime Minister, was named acting President under the provisions of the constitution.

During the past three weeks the former head of the KCIA has reconstructed the scene of the assassination.

The new South Korean leader has already taken steps to introduce a liberal form of government and constitution.

President Choi is expected to be installed as interim head of state on Thursday when the national conference for unification convenes to elect a new executive leader. But President Choi has already promised to amend the constitution and ensure that the President is elected by direct universal vote.

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to
ra fighting**

ria, Dec 4.—An African aimed at halting the over the Western **as opened today by** William Tolbert, chairman of the Organi**f African Unity.** meeting was less than **Tolbert has hoped** he would bring together "men"—the leaders **in Tanzania, Mali,** and Guinea—along with **participants in the war,** the Polisario guerrilla **in Algeria, which sup-**

Morocco abstained, Mali and Tanzania **of** President Ahmed **of Guinea also** saying that without **"the meeting will not** be objective".

Mauritania dropped the war over the phosphates.

Western Sahara this year, Morocco **an** entire territory and its fight against the guerrillas.

Tolbert said there "a distressing escalation" and that **generated growing con-** cern.

ceef man 'saw relief
on to Kampucheaans'

Dec 4.—Food, water and other assistance freely distributed in **impuchas by the Viet-** M Jacques Danois, representative of the **ations Children's Fund** said today.

M. Danois is expected to re- turn to Bangkok at the week-end.

For the third consecutive day, the Thai Army **today pre-** vented food and water from **getting through to the 200,000** Kampuchea in the Khamer Sevi (anti-communist) "Free Khamer" camp near the Thai border.

Those running the camp, 18 miles north of the Thai border town of Aranyaprathet, have **refused to allow Kampucheaans** to go to the temporary transit centre recently opened at Khao I-Dang, some six miles inside Thailand.

A member of an international relief organization said today **there was already a shortage** of water in the camp.—Agence France-Presse.

'childhood' for millions
working young in India

of children in India drag long hours for little dangerous conditions, **to a report published** by the 140-year-old Slavery Society, says **children aged 5 to 14 are** in mining, brickmaking, construction and match making, often in conditions which damage their health.

India has status with the United Economic and Social Council, which says India has the largest child labour with about 16,500,000 children.

Child Labour in India, by Banerjee, a journal.

As a survey of child in Bombay's non-aid building industry aid children were working alongside their parents

Nato's missile decision now seen to be inevitable

Moscow looks to new arms talks

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Dec 4

principal accused appeared dressed in traditional Korean apparel in court today. He has been charged with murder with intent to commit sedition and attempted sedition. Mr. Kim Kae Won has been similarly charged.

Both were close confidants and advisers of President Park and until the assassination South Koreans had no hint of a rift within the hierarchy.

According to the Government's version of the incident, Mr. Kim left the dinner party in a special KCIA dining room within the palace grounds and returned with a revolver after President Park and his close friend and chief bodyguard, Mr. Cha Chik Choi, had chastised the head of the KCIA over his handling of students in Pusan and Moran in October.

Apparently, Mr. Cha, a hardliner, claimed that the students had erupted because the KCIA had refused to take a tough line.

Mr. Kim was later arrested by General Chung Sung Wa, joint chief of staff at the Ministry of Defence. Most areas of South Korea were placed under martial law and Mr. Choi Kyu-Hah, the Prime Minister, was named acting President under the provisions of the constitution.

During the past three weeks the former head of the KCIA has reconstructed the scene of the assassination.

The new South Korean leader has already taken steps to introduce a liberal form of government and constitution.

President Choi is expected to be installed as interim head of state on Thursday when the national conference for unification convenes to elect a new executive leader. But President Choi has already promised to amend the constitution and ensure that the President is elected by direct universal vote.

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ratification process in the American Senate to begin before throwing in the added complications of the present missile campaign.

Marshal Ogarkov played a leading role in the Salt talks, and he and the political leadership may have decided, over the objections within the Soviet military, that the offer could not be delayed any longer.

In spite of their propaganda barrage against the Pershing 2 and Cruise missiles, the Russians believe the decision to deploy them is a foregone conclusion. Their main concern now is to get the best possible negotiations offer out of Nato when it makes the decision.

The Russians are registering their objections for the record and laying claim to the future. Such talks could

be decided at the highest level with the Soviet leadership, and that it came as a surprise to many senior officials. Questions of disarmament are confined to a tightly-knit group in which Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, deputy Defence Minister and Chief of General Staff, plays a leading role.

Nato had long been expecting some Soviet initiative in response to its modernization plans and there was some surprise that the Berlin offer came so late. But the Russians were convinced in their view by the signing of the Salt 2 Treaty.

The Russians expect Western leaders to be able to distinguish between what they say for prop-

aganda reasons and what they say as a basis for negotiation.

Essentially the Russians would like to confine talks on theatre nuclear forces to the Americans. They feel it would be easier to deal on a bilateral basis, and they could leave it to the Americans to obtain their Nato allies' approval.

The Russians do understand Western fears of the SS20, of which about 120 have now been deployed. But there are indications that the deployment of these missiles was the price the Soviet leadership had to pay to persuade military leaders to go along with the Salt 2 agreement, as the tacticians were worried that theatre nuclear forces were not included in the Salt package.

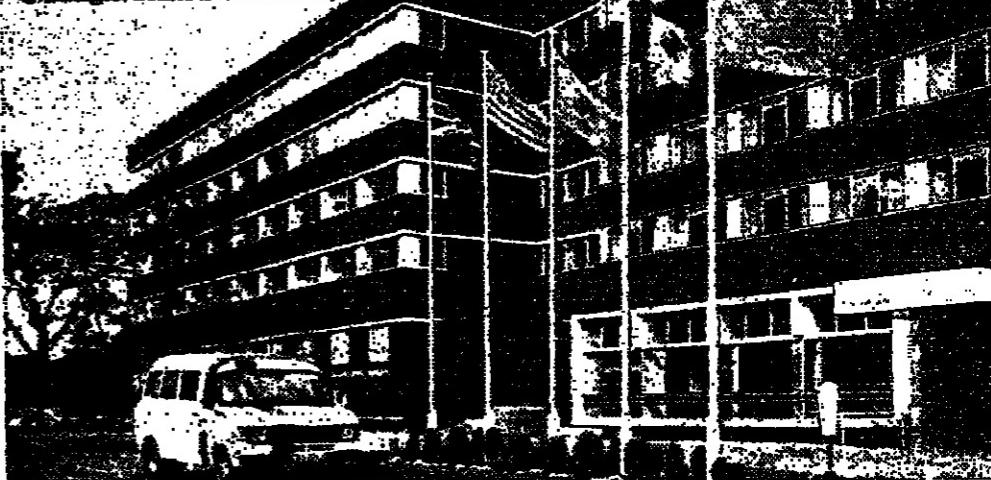
For their part the Russians are far more worried about the Cruise missiles than about the Pershings. They have not yet perfected the Cruise technology.

Banning a freeze on all further deployment of weapons systems, which does not seem likely, the Russians might be receptive therefore to Nato's wish to trade off the Pershing and Cruise missiles, and maybe some aircraft, for the SS20 and the Backfire bomber.

One thing that could upset all future Soviet interest in arms control talks is a rejection by the Senate of the Salt 2 treaty. That might persuade Western and future Soviet leaderships that it was not worth making about arms limitation if agreements could not be enforced on the American side.

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Glenmore, Godforth Park Hotel

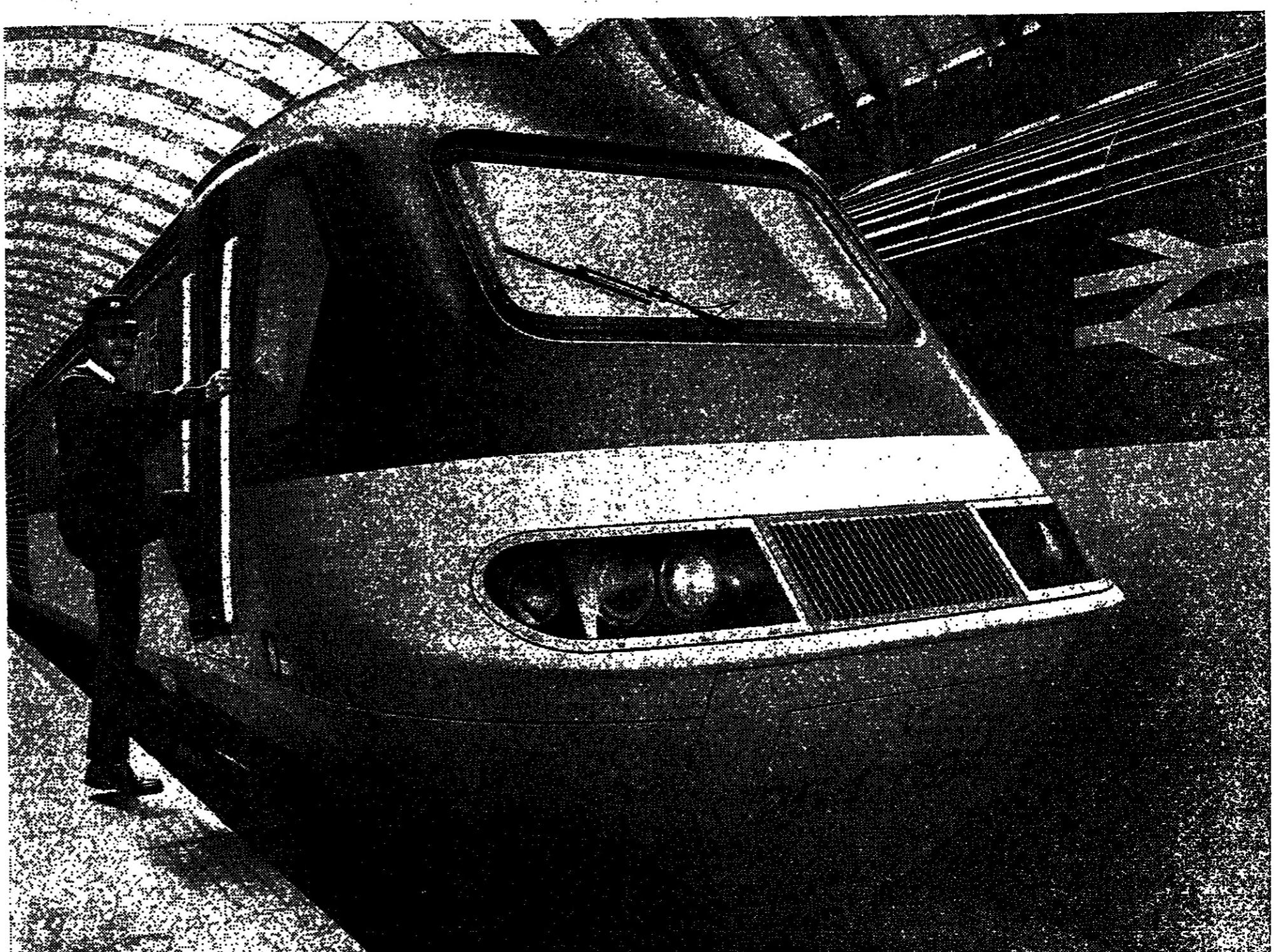


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OVERSEAS Israeli group demand law to protect 'illegal' settlements

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, Dec 4

Extreme Jewish nationalists belonging to the right-wing Gush Emunim movement are demanding that the Israeli Government change the status of settlements in the occupied territories in exchange for a peaceful evacuation of their illegal settlement at Elon Moreh.

Political sources pointed out tonight that such a move would be against the spirit, if not the letter, of the Camp David agreement and would provide a further serious obstacle to efforts to persuade representatives from the West Bank and Gaza Strip to join the talks on Palestinian autonomy.

Leaders of the 110 settlers living at Elon Moreh, a biblical site overlooking Nablus, are understood to have drawn up their demand during a turbulent all-night meeting that ended today.

They had been discussing a government compromise plan that would have involved them moving to a new site on state-owned land five miles away.

Although no statement was made to the press, it appears that the settlers are demanding that the Government pass legislation that would put settlements in the occupied territories outside the jurisdiction of the Israeli courts.

An attempt is to be made to present the demand personally to Prime Minister Begin, the Foreign Minister said, but tonight it appeared far from clear what he would agree to, any further meetings with the group.

Although the Government's reaction is still unclear, there have been signs among Ministers of a growing impatience with the intransigence of the settlers. At the weekend, Mr Simcha Erlich, the deputy Prime Minister, said that the Government would be obliged to use force if they did not move.

The settlers have already overstayed the deadline set by Israel's Supreme Court, which ruled unequivocally in October that private Arab land had been illegally seized for the settlement. At the time, the judgment was seen as posing a

threat to other Jewish settlements on territory taken during the 1967 war.

The subsequent bitter-national debate on Elon Moreh has disclosed deep splits in Mr Begin's coalition Cabinet and throughout Israel. The opposition Labour Alignment has repeatedly accused the Government of flouting the rule of law in its efforts to appease the settlers, who regard their right to the land as deriving from the Old Testament.

In the weeks that the dispute has dragged on, Gush Emunim has repeatedly threatened to rally thousands of militant supporters to Elon Moreh to resist evacuation. At the other end of the political spectrum, the left-wing Peace Now group has said that its supporters will take to the streets to back up the court ruling.

The settlers have about four weeks before the second deadline set by the Court runs out.

The demand comes at a time when the Government is faced with severe political difficulties over the abortion laws. Later this week, the four members of the ultra-orthodox Agudat Israel party are expected to withdraw their support for the Government as a result of its failure to pass a Bill that would make legal abortions harder to obtain.

Their departure would leave Mr Begin with a working majority of one in the Knesset. Student detained: Mr Mahmoud Muharab, a doctoral student in political science at Reading University, Berkshire, has been held for nearly three weeks by the Israelis as a suspected member of Al Fatah, the terrorist organization, and has exercised his legal right not to talk, his lawyer said today (Moshe Brilliant writes from Tel Aviv).

Mr Ibrahim Nassar, the lawyer, said Mr Muharab was arrested at Ben-Gurion Airport when he arrived on November 16 to visit his parents in Lydda.

Mr Nassar said his client was charged with membership of an illegal organization when he was remanded for 15 days by a magistrate in Ramle on November 16.

American marines flown to Puerto Rico after ambush

Washington, Dec 4.—The United States has sent 50 marines to the American naval air station in Puerto Rico to strengthen security after the killing of two sailors yesterday when an illegal organization was captured in an ambush by nationalist gunmen.

A Pentagon spokesman said the marines left Camp Lejeune in North Carolina last night for the naval air station at Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. Meanwhile the Navy said two of the 10 sailors wounded in the attack on a Navy bus were in serious condition.

In Puerto Rico today marines with M16 rifles patrolled the entrance to the base where they were quartered. Rear Admiral Arthur K. Knutson, the Navy's Caribbean commander, said security was being stepped up at all other bases in Puerto Rico.

Responsibility for the attack has been claimed by three independence groups—the Armed Forces of Popular Resistance, the Puerto Rican Popular Army and the Organization of Volunteers for the Puerto Rican Revolution.

They said the attack was made to avenge two year-old assassination of a communications tower near a communications tower a year ago and an anti-Navy activist killed in a Flamingo prison in October.

It was the first fatal attack for nine years and the costliest ever made on American military forces in Puerto Rico.—AP and UPI.

The majority of Puerto Ricans, in referendums and public opinion polls, have repeatedly rejected independence for the island. In recent years the main political conflict has been between those favouring statehood and those who want to continue the commonwealth status.

Mr Carlos Romero Barcelo, the Governor of the island and an advocate of statehood, said the attack was "irrational and cowardly act against the people of the United States and the people of Puerto Rico." Mr Rafael Hernandez Colon, a former Governor who leads the opposition Popular Democratic Party, condemned the killings "from the depth of my spirit."

But Mr Carlos Collazo, a socialist leader, said what had happened was "the product of the situation that the United States Navy has created in Puerto Rico."—AP and UPI.

Correction

A Reuter report on November 22 with the photograph of an attack on the United States Embassy in Islamabad said that President Zia had telephoned President Carter to apologize. The Pakistani Ambassador in London informs us that the call was initiated by the White House, which was given an assurance on the protection of American life and property.

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Anti-Iran rally loses to football

From Our Correspondent
Los Angeles, Dec 4

The attackers in a van intercepted a Navy bus carrying 18 technicians to work at a transmission antenna site near a Navy base, nine miles west of San Juan. They forced the bus to stop and then opened fire.

They fought off at least four assaults by an estimated 10,000 troops in the first three days before they were driven from the upper levels and ground

The noisy crowd, waiting American fans and carrying pictures of the Ayatollah reading Public enemy No 1, was small in size. In Los Angeles Coliseum with room for 100,000. The stadium had been rented for \$65,000 (£32,500) by the California Democratic state senator, Mr Paul Carpenter, in the hope of filling it with protesters. Those attending were asked to pay \$1 each to help to defray costs.

"It's far easier to sit at home and wait for the television news than it is to get out and help make the news," Mr Carpenter said.

Mr Jack Carter, a comedian explaining why the crowd was so small, said: "The Iranian people are Kurdish guerrilla fighters beside the road, tall men loaded down with ammunition belts, bandoliers, hand-grenades and RPGs."

The crowd chanted: "We love Uncle Sam" and carried signs reading: "Zap the Ayatollah" and "Iran do you want war or peace?" It shouted: "Burn, burn, burn" as an affray of the Ayatollah hanging from antelope gallows was set alight.

He said that for 10 of those years he had been held incommunicado and that for seven years he was not allowed to see his family. He had gone on six hunger strikes for a total of 231 months.

Senior Mates, a former major and military commander of Camaguey province, supported Dr Castro during the revolution but fell out with him when he saw his policies take on a communist flavour.

In October, 1959, Dr Castro charged him with treason and with conspiracy to provoke a rebellion and imprisoned him.

More than 1,000 political prisoners were still held in Cuba, he said. Some had been arrested for refusing to join Cuban troops fighting in Angola.

The discontent in Cuba is widespread and it appears in Castro's recent charges of negligence and a lack of discipline by the work force.

Prisoners were taken "from one extreme to another to try to break their personality." For a year, he said, he was detained in a "concrete box" which excluded all sunlight.

Tidal wave terror

Melbourne, Dec 4.—Seven thousand people on the Pacific island of Marjuro, in the Marshall Islands, were homeless after a 20ft tidal wave hit the island.



Mrs Indira Gandhi addresses a rally in the Rae Bareilly constituency, where she lost her seat in 1977 and which she is contesting again.

Last of the Great Mosque rebels rooted out by Saudi forces

From Our Correspondent
Jiddah, Dec 4

The last of the gunmen who seized the Great Mosque in Mecca surrendered early this morning, ending two weeks of sieges.

A brief statement by Prince Naif, the Interior Minister, said that the security forces had finally killed or captured all those remaining in the catacombs below the mosque.

No information is available on the fate of the rebels' leader, Muhammad ibn Abdullah al-Qahtani, who had declared himself Mahdi, the divinely inspired figure foretold by the Prophet Muhammad as the one who would restore justice to a corrupt world. It is possible that he made his escape before his followers took to the 130 cells.

Between 300 and 500 attackers armed with automatic weapons seized the mosque after dawn prayers two weeks ago. They threatened the Imam, demanding that he proclaim their leader Mahdi and called for an Islamic government and an end to radio, television and football.

Police attempted to contain a march in Jaffah, 50 miles from the ranker terminal of Ras Tanura, and at least two people were killed. Events there are thought to have taken their

momentum from Iran—rather from Mecca.

The Saudi public has been horrified by the blasphemy of the attack and there can be little doubt of the fate of the assailants. The newspapers have printed grisly eye witness accounts. One this morning described the inner courtyard as being covered in bodies and the smell as being unbearable.

Shakir Muhammad al-Qahtani, Imam of the Malazza mosque in Rhyah, said the attackers prevented the collection of bodies by shooting indiscriminately at anything that moved. One child was killed watching the fight from the hills that ring the mosque.

He said the final assault was made possible only by tanks entering the courtyard. Then the attacker had used worshippers as shields.

Reliable estimates put their numbers at 300, accompanied by a similar number of wives and children. A Special Forces commander at the siege said on television that 500 people had been captured.

Despite coincidental demonstrations last week by some of the 80,000 Shia in the Eastern Province to mark a Shia day of mourning, there has been no sign of the revolt spreading.

Police attempted to contain a march in Jaffah, 50 miles from the ranker terminal of Ras Tanura, and at least two people were killed. Events there are thought to have taken their

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The authorities used gas and tear gas to clear out the remaining 70 or so rebels. In accordance with King Khalid's orders that they be taken alive, a plan to seal off the insurgents' source of air was abandoned.

Although the attackers were originally thought to be almost entirely dissident Bedouin, they were mainly students possibly linked to an underground resistance movement. Muhammad Othman was a 27-year-old drop-out from the Faculty of Sharia at the University of Medina in Rhyah.

The group calling itself Uzioz of the Peoples of the Arabian Peninsula said in a communiqué that the Saudi authorities had arrested more than 7,000 of its sympathizers and "placed them in dirty secret prisons and prevented food and water from reaching them."

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Dracula's ghost haunts court in California

From Ivor Davis
Los Angeles, Dec 4

The ghost of film hunk Count Dracula has haunted the California Supreme Court for two years but to no avail. The court this week refused to be intimidated.

Justices in a close 4 to 3 decision have ruled that the heirs of Bela Lugosi, the actor who played the blood-thirsty count, had no exclusive rights to commercially exploit the actor's posthumous "Dracula" which was created by Bram Stoker in his 1897 novel.

In a long-awaited verdict the court ruled in favour of Universal Pictures.

The Lugosi family had claimed a large bite of profits made by the studio from selling Dracula masks, tee shirts and other novelty items after the actor's death in 1956.

Dissenters argued that Universal had infringed on the Lugosi "right of publicity." The right to exploit his name and likeness. The Lugosi family (his widow Hope, son Bela George Lugosi), she ruled, were entitled to a share of the profits.

But Justice Stanley Mosk, noting that even though Lugosi may have been the most famous screen blood sucker, pointed out that other actors including Lon Chaney and John Carradine for example, had also portrayed the count and that Lugosi's popularity could not be infinite.

Justice Mosk noted with more than a trace of humour: "May the descendants of George Washington sue the Treasury for placing his likeness on the dollar bill?" May the descendant of James and Dolley Madison recover for the commercialization of Dolly Madison's confessions?

The ruling came in the oldest case before the Supreme Court, in which Justice Mosk noted, in which Lugosi rises from the dead 15 years after death to haunt his former employer.

Lugosi first played Dracula in 1930 after doing it on stage three years earlier. When Universal Studios began selling Dracula novelties the Lugosi family sued seeking a share of more than \$250m (£120m) in royalties. In 1977, a Los Angeles Superior Court awarded the family \$272,000 and ordered the studio not to sign any more agreements using the actor's likeness.

Reliable reports said that the studio had to give up the rights to the character to the Lugosi estate to reach a deal.

David Spanier, the Diplomatic Correspondent, assesses the gamble taken by Lord Carrington

Riding on the Rhodesian knife-edge

Lord Carrington is not a man afraid of taking decisions. His summary, right or wrong, action as chairman of the London conference on Rhodesia to cut off the talks at Lancaster House and to go for a settlement come what may, with the agreement of the Patriotic Front or without it, is a very big decision.

If it works, it will be greeted as a master stroke of diplomacy. If it fails, as the Patriotic Front leaders warned yesterday, it will be judged by many people, not only in Africa, as a most reckless gamble.

From the start of the conference, Lord Carrington was determined to "lance the boil". This time, the Rhodesian problem was going to be cleared up. Though the omens were not good, he found—to start with—a negotiating technique which paid off brilliantly. Britain would judge what was practical

(a favourite word) and lay down the prescribed solution.

The Salisbury delegation saw great advantages in accepting the British line. The Patriotic Front, though it disliked what was happening, was squeezed between its backers on one side, and the British threat to go it alone on the other.

Accordingly Lord Carrington first got the constitution agreed and then the arrangements for elections.

So far so good. But this very success may have contained the seed of its own failure: For the Patriotic Front became extremely resentful at what it saw as Lord Carrington's high-handed tactics. Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe, grew more, and more determined not to be hustled. If they felt bitter and contemptuous of all the plaudits heaped on Lord Carrington's success, it was understandable.

For their deep mistrust of

British motives was compounded by a more personal resentment of the chairman's style.

It would be wrong, of course, to attribute the crisis yesterday, if it is a breakdown, to personal factors. But they have played a part. Consider the so-called "terrorists"—many of them are men with university degrees or doctorates of law acquired in long years in prison; they are imbued with passionate nationalism, reinforced by political science; though outsiders, they are widely travelled.

The Foreign Secretary, "the good Lord", as they so scornfully refer to him, is judged as an aristocrat who cannot by definition be in sympathy with their own perception of the historical process. Moreover, in the high Tory tradition which misleads cleanness, Lord Carrington is a man who, by

nature, conceals his considerable political abilities; to them he often seems limited or unprincipled.

The point of decision was reached for Lord Carrington when he returned, no doubt tired and disengaged, from the European summit in Dublin on Friday evening.

The Patriotic Front's list of counter proposals on a ceasefire, which they themselves judged entirely reasonable, surprised and exasperated the British side. On Saturday, a final effort was made by officials to clarify what the British proposals meant, without changing them, in the hope that the Patriotic Front would come round.

But the Patriotic Front held to their view that they were not to be rushed, that what they were asking for was no more than fair play. There was no

further contact on Sunday. Lord Carrington set up a plenary session of the conference on Monday afternoon before reporting to his Cabinet colleagues that evening on progress to date.

When the Patriotic Front indicated that they were not going to give a Yes or No answer, Lord Carrington decided that he had waited long enough, and cancelled the meeting at short notice. If necessary, Britain would go ahead without them.

Lord Carrington, in his view, has done all that he possibly could to meet their concerns for a just settlement, and allay their anxieties over a ceasefire. His negotiating technique had worked twice already. His calculation this week was not merely that it would work a third time, but that it had to work—there was no other way.

Suspicion, as Labour sorts itself out

Wilson declared after the 1979 general election defeat. Now there is to be one, after the defeat this year, and in the nature of things there has to be the spilling of blood.

The left, by legitimate means of forceful argument and eloquence in attending meetings, captured control of the national executive, the custodian of party policy, in the mid-Seventies. Now the right is fighting back. It is this that forms the basis for the trade union initiated inquiry. And the left, despite their bravura display of reflecting the views of the mass of the party, are not as confident as they try to appear.

There was, for example, an extraordinary caucus meeting last week. Before the national executive met to discuss representations from Mr Bassett that the composition of the inquiry team should be re-examined, the left, congregated in one of the rooms in the Norman Shaw building near Parliament, to decide what line to adopt. Mr Bassett, it is inferred because the national executive has packed the inquiry team with left-wingers and he wants a better balance.

The left has resisted appeals from Mr Callaghan and his shadow cabinet colleagues to allow the Parliamentary Labour Party to have representation, but at the caucus meeting there were signs of compromise, or at least a recognition of the genuine pressure being brought to bear upon the executive. Mr Frank Allain, a former party chairman, suggested allowing the PLP one representative. He was supported by another former chairman, Miss Joan Lester.

But there was clearly an air of combative insecurity in the room. Resistance came from among others, Mr Wedgwood Benn and Miss Joan Maynard. Working busily on their fingers, those present indulged in a complicated numbers game in which it was shown that any surrender on the proposed composition would probably roll the left of its majority. And the left is determined not to be dictated to by the unions. If the right, headed by the conservative party of tiny Trots, the left's fellow deafness at the cash-registers bargaining power of the trade unions, the party's paymaster.

The inquiry, therefore, is built upon a foundation of mutual suspicion, which does not sugar well for its eventual findings. Indeed, there is already talk that majority and minority reports seem inevitable, with the merits being thrashed out at the party conference.

However, the argument over the composition is by no means over. This week Mr Bassett wrote another letter to Mr Ron Haywood, the party general secretary, suggesting since there should be a joint meeting to discuss the balance of the inquiry team. The issue may crop up again at today's meeting of the national executive, though the left is expected to put up fierce resistance.

The unions, though still have one shot in their locker if the national executive proves obstinate. When they first proposed the inquiry, the unions suggested five from either side. The executive put on seven. If the unions were so minded, the TULV could also increase its representation by two. Indeed, the names of Mr Sydney Weightman and Mr Alan Fisher have already been mentioned. The TULV is reluctant to take such a step because it would only prolong the row, but it would seem, on the face of it, a legitimate device.

It is all very healthy. If one accepts the dictum of Aneurin Bevan that there is nothing worse for democracy than the right, then behind the dispute, in fact, is that for the first time in a decade there is real contention between the rival factions of left and right over the direction of the party.

"There is no post mortem when there is no body", Harold

Michael Hatfield.

Bernard Levin

Doctor at sea on an ugly tide

In the present power-struggle within the Labour Party, some of the arguments, and even traps, tend to be obscured by the smoke of battle, and fears have been expressed that even when the battle is lost, we may not know, and certainly may not know immediately, which side has come out on top. That fear at any rate I can confidently dispel: to know who has won control of the Labour Party, just keep an eye on Dr David Owen (the Roy Hattersley of British politics) and see on which side of the fence he finally decides his bread is buttered. I have said that it is unlikely to change weasels in mid-stream; I have likewise pointed out the perils of changing rats half-way off a sinking ship; Dr Johnson anticipated me by observing that there is no establishing a point of precedence between a loss and a flea; but when I contemplated Dr Owen's all-star image-side, and I am not strongly in mind of a mass of butter-must swallowed by a fake medium and regurgitated slowly in the half-light of a seance to convince the gullible that she is extruding ectoplasm.

Did you read his remarks about Mr Roy Jenkins's call to the democrats in the Labour Party, if they cannot put their house in order, to build a new house? Naturally, Dr Owen could not take up a straightforward leftist position on the speech, denouncing Mr Jenkins as a crypto-Tory traitor to the working-class: such credibility as he has (though for credibility he already stands somewhere between Benedict Arnold and Harold Wilson) would, altogether lost, he threw in his lot with the left as quickly as that. So: he had to put the centre-right case without identi-

fying himself too closely, with it; he may one day need the votes of those on the left who are still far left that they would never support him in any circumstances, and anyway he has to ensure that there will still be a job for him when Mr Allain says,

—Wonderfully characteristic touch! —actually mentioning Mr Jenkins by name, he spoke of "siren voices from outside, from those who have given up the fight from within", and said how wrong it would be for the Labour Party to split and thus "forfeit the support of many millions of people who currently vote Labour", and insisted that the thing to do is to "turn our own party once more into a strong, electable force" (including Mrs Thatcher and winning back power as a broad-based party with appeal across the classes). (He has an oratorical style like sickled-up cheesecloth, too.)

I begin with that excursion back into well-old history because Dr Owen was at it again on Monday, and because it was as on this occasion a good deal more important than his political ambitions. (More important to the rest of us, anyway.) This time it is the EEC; Dr Owen's speech on the subject, to the Richmond Fabian Society (there's glory for you!), which was reported in this newspaper under the curious subheading "Dr Owen stands firm" (as in re-cycled ectoplasm), included an assertion that there was no going back on Britain's EEC demands (in italics) "without no backing out of the EEC" followed by a call for "all-party support against any Whitehall tendency to compromise" and "a tough middle way" (that is he was calling for a tough middle

way, not for all-party support against it; those, though no doubt he would be willing to have his remarks interpreted in the contrary sense if enough of his potential supporters would wish it).

I have paid such detailed attention to Dr Owen partly because I have been wanting to do so for a considerable time, but much more because in his remarks on the EEC he is only the worst bit of flotsam on an ugly tide which is carrying a considerable quantity of debris along with it. The Labour Party's attitude to Britain's membership has, of course, always been split, and since the days when Harold Wilson was reversing his own position on the subject every Tuesday and Friday. Much of the left is opposed to the EEC simply because the Soviet Union is; much of the soggy centre is perfectly willing to be if they think there is real electoral advantage to be gained from such a somersault; Mr Wedgwood Benn sees opposition to Britain's membership as a good populist issue on which to further his own ambitions (I have no doubt that he has already persuaded himself that the referendum—which he insisted on—did not vote Yes by a majority of rather more than two to one). Mr Callaghan sees it as a chance to divert attention from his own internal party troubles by working up a spurious indignation at Mrs Thatcher's handling of the Dublin meeting; and slowly the battle-lines are becoming more clearly visible in the smoke, and what emerges is a strategy that would enable the party to achieve a precarious and temporary unity by demanding Britain's withdrawal.

Such a decision would satisfy all

but a few honest men, and a few devoted Europeans (the two categories overlap, though they are not quite congruent). It would be, at any rate superficially and at first a good election cry; though it represents one of the left's most cherished aims, it would paradoxically serve to strengthen Mr Callaghan's position for a time, even if only because it would represent a notable example of clothes-stealing on his part; and there would be comfort for bent consciences in the thought that after all we could always negotiate our way back in again, and even that we don't have to quit till the EEC is irreparably damaging it and our relations with it would probably suffice, as indeed would a promise to withdraw made for an election and broken after winning it.

Do not tell me that it is impossible; desperate men—and the Labour Party leadership (aptly described in the words of the famous misprint as battle-scarred veterans or even as in Beachcomber's extension of the chestnut with "always foremost in the flight") and "the zero of a hundred encounters") are now nothing if not desperate. It will pursue desperate courses. It will not even be the first time a very modest deal of the present economic troubles have grown directly from the Labour leadership's support in 1974 of the miners' pay-claim which they would have resisted had they been in office, and in particular from Mr Callaghan's own active encouragement to them to remain intransigent in order to enhance his and his party's electoral chances. Besides that, yet another somersault over the EEC would be a trifle, particularly as Mr Callaghan

always took great care, let it be known, that he was never a particularly enthusiastic European anyway. (Nor do I have any recollection of Mr Healey beating much of a drum at the time, either.)

One of the most ingeniously combative reasons for leaving Labour to be heard during the election earlier this year was that "Labour cannot be trusted in Opposition"; that is, that the Labour Party, once out of power, would be willing to take any line that might bring them back into it, however inimical to the country's interest it might be. But the argument was contemptible only because it put forward cowardice as the chief electoral virtue; on the facts, it could not be faulted. And the point is that it is the Labour Party that cannot be shuns trusted; just the left of it. (The most notable example apart from the miners' claim is, of course, Labour's opposition to the Tories' version of their own proposals for an Industrial Relations Act; it was not just Lady Castle who maintained that no change in trade union law was necessary, but the whole party, including the moderates. And they are just getting ready to do the same thing when the present Government's Bill is tabled.)

In the circumstances, the NEC's move towards an outright demand for Britain's withdrawal from the EEC is not surprising; nor is the silence on the part of so many of the party's leaders; nor, above all, is the unapologetic ectoplasm issuing from Dr Owen's mouth.

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Lord Rothschild reflects on his two years inquiring into gambling on behalf of the nation

The doubtful honour of being employed on commission

The trouble about royal commissions is that they rarely, if ever, have any political sex appeal, whereas politicians, being concerned with politics and therefore votes, tend to be interested in subjects which are politically sexy and not like royal commissions, possibly anaphrodisiacal.

At the same time royal commissions have their uses. As A. F. Herbert noted: A Royal Commission is generally appointed, not so much for digging up the truth as for digging it in; and a government department appointing a Royal Commission is like a dog burying a bone, except that the

dog does eventually return to the bone".

Given this background the enthusiasm and tenacity with which members of royal commissions so often pursue their task is surprising and commendable, in spite of the honour of not being paid or, if they are, at rate (in New Zealand) as low as £100 a day for work given up) and in a way so important as to have daunted all but one of my commissioners.

It is true that commissioners

Commission on Gambling ceased its labours in July 1978. Until then the boxes were a kind of pourboire.

The fact that members of a royal commission should not obscure the fact that Commissioners themselves are very conservative—they cost about £100 a day, and in a way

so important as to have daunted all but one of my commissioners.

It is true that commissioners

are not paid, though they are

notified of the amount of

allowance given to them.

Before that, however, the

Home Office had not, of course, been idle. As soon as our report was issued, officials of that department wrote to all interested parties asking them if they had any comment to make on the report. Had it occurred to these officials that those to whom they wrote had already been questioned at length by the royal commission, or had submitted evidence which had been carefully weighed by the commissioners? No-one will ever know.

After reading the debate I

imagined a conversation be-

tween two civil servants in the

Home Office, the sponsoring

department: "George, I think

it would be useful to have a

brief debate about gambling in

the House, opened of course

by the Home Secretary—after

which we can bring the subject

almost indefinitely. We can

arrange for him to make some

noise about the commission

and the debate itself will

pacify those baying for action.

We shall, of course be able to

use pressure of legislative time

and public expenditure restrictions

as reasons for what I might

call 'postponing considera-

tion' of the commission's

undesirable large number

of recommendations."

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Home Office had not, of course,

been idle. As soon as our

report was issued, officials of

that department wrote to all

interested parties asking them

if they had any comment to

make on the report. No-one

will ever know.

At this stage the Home

Office slipped up. For some obscure reason they failed to collect together the comments of all those interested parties and circulate them for the conduct of gambling in such institutions as the Royal Commission on Gambling.

The process could have been continued indefinitely and the fact that it would have done no good is irrelevant. Solving crossword puzzles, maypole dancing and sticking safety pins through the lobes of one's ears do no good, but apart from the odd case of septicemia, they do no harm unlike the games played between sessions of bingo which the Government and the Gaming Board are too idle to deal with.

Anyway, why should not those lonely middle-aged ladies be taken for a ride? They do not have to play those interval games, for example the jackpot machines if the queues waiting to play are not too long.

Was all that sweat, worthwhile? Were all those visits to working men's clubs and miners' welfare institutes necessary if the commission

was later to be told by the spokesman for the organisation to mind its own business and that no information about the conduct of gambling in such institutions should be forthcoming? An Englishman's club is after all his castle and the gambling turnover in the clubs is only some £400m a year.

It would be wrong not to record that the chairman of some royal commissions are rewarded in a way which gives me, at any rate, great pleasure. They do that sort of thing very well here. But in retrospect, in spite of my silver inkstand and in spite of having made some new and enjoyable friendships, I wonder whether the sweat and cost was worthwhile, both from the point of view of the country and of the commissioners.

I suspect that like most gamblers, this one did not come off. Maybe the time has come to re-examine the system, even though this was last done as recently as in 191

Festivals of the year

CINEMA

this year dogged Berlin, its second first major film festival in the city. An attempted change was frustrated by the International Federation of Film Producers, to the financial and organizational disadvantage of the city. Then there was a mass walk-out in protest.

The *Deer Hunter*, the film merits such an hardly more than it receives. An excessive admiration received.

The promising entries were few. The best was Jiri Menzel's *Underworld Movie Cranks*, subsequently turned various international

German cinema was on display: Werner Herzog and Rainer Werner Fassbinder each had films both in Berlin. Herzog's entry was *Nostalagia*, with both have only been released in Fassbinder, who at

was to show *Die Dritte*

on, a somewhat self-observation of the terrorism of terrorists he Berlin festival with

der Maria Braun. The

is good ironic

material: Maria's wed-

n; thereafter man and

wife persistently kept

his years at the war

jail sentence for the

of Maria's GI lover

she did herself); finally,

new Germany, by an

mutually agreed

new, rich, dying lover

factor. All obstacles

moved, man and wife

at the point when a proper

action when a gas

does for them both.

the most attractive

how was the Egyptian

Chahine's evidently

apical *Alexandria*—

is set in the early

years young hero pur-

theatrical ambitions

adedy while someone

rages around. Despite

treds and tension

and English, Arab

against the rules, still

possibilities to love

Shamelessly rough

the film wins out

vigour and generosity.

est

nd's Gdansk, Budapest's

ly national festival

arts' showpiece was

reds and tension

and English, Arab

against the rules, still

possibilities to love

Shamelessly rough

the film wins out

vigour and generosity.

ir Gelvan, a gentle

bodies Myshkin's kind-

simplicity, his strength

ness, even his good-

without ever looking

anov himself gives a

us, tormented forces

distrustful animal, to

As *Nostalgia*, Eva

expresses the innova-

Hermann Schwarz-

style fascination; an

of the two would be

both rise to marvel-

ments. Galina Panova

lava a pert freshness

her ingenuo charm

choreographic inven-

neverless

present-day Russian

ns too closely. At its

composition is indi-

strikingly main, in

s (notably Nastasya's

thrust on abandoning

at the church door)

final quartet of grief

understanding. The pro-

impressive through-

will not soon forget

's headlong flight

the city streets, nor his

on, he belope at the

in his world crashes in

Aided by Günther

Siemens's quick-

designs (cut-outs, pro-

curtains), the action

ith the compelling pace

at least of the baller's

the score Panov and

ductor, Michael Herk,

structed from his neg-

itself largely his neg-

its score and ballet

appreciated by move-

ments and the choreography makes excellent use of enjoy-

able, neglected baller music. Although the me identifies 30 pieces

er, they have been

to make what sounds

complete whole power-

sporting situation, event

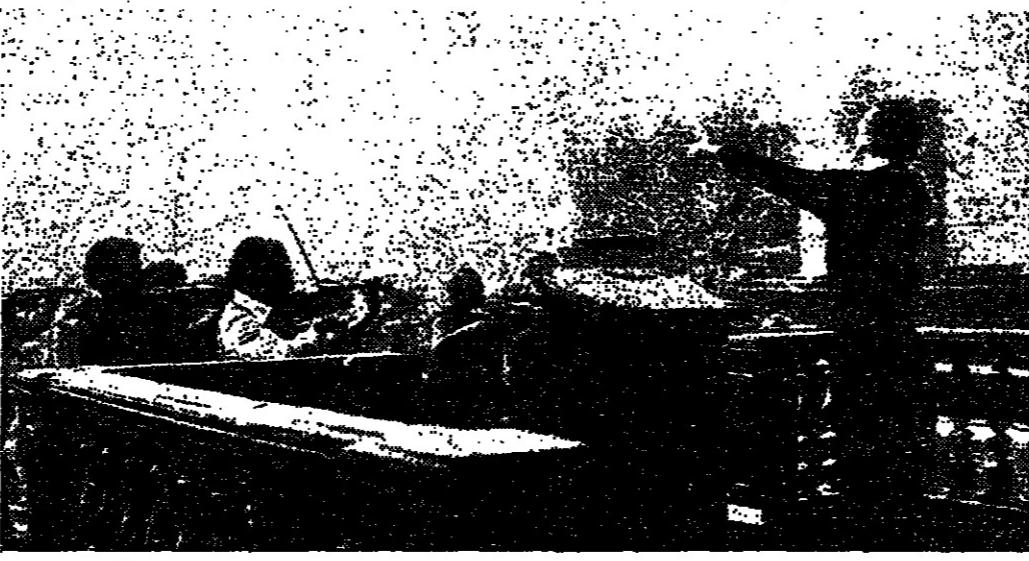
od, and handsomely

too.

urgh

for a balanced pro-

of wide appeal. John



Ironic, mischievous, imaginative... *Die Ehe der Maria Braun. Prova d'Orchestra. The Tin Drum*

Volker Schlöndorff's adaption of Gunther Grass's *The Tin Drum*. Schlöndorff's film would have been a deeply joyous and concientious but for his brilliant evocation of Danzig before and during the Second World War and the inspired casting of the 12-year-old David Bennet as the hero, a formidable little person who decides at the age of four to evade the discomfort of history by refusing to grow any more. Since the scenario calls for the child dwarf (whose other happy talents include a scream that can shatter glass) to engage in sexual romps with much larger ladies, the film is likely to join the growing list of works kept out of Britain by the recent Child Protection Act.

Apocalypse Now was offered as a "work in progress": Coppola was still unable to make up his mind about the end, where the film sticks closest to Conrad and suffers for it. The mystical artifice of this literary part sits uncomfortably with Coppola's often (quite literally) summing impressions of the Vietnam war.

Apart from Rosi, the Italians in Cannes offered fables: Luigi Comencini's *L'Incontro* (*Traffic Jam*) provides a heavy-handed metaphor for the breakdown of a social order, but Fellini's *Prova d'Orchestra* is a gem—desperately simple and good-natured, really mischievous and bewitching. A director's crew is at work on a (clearly) dreadful documentary about an orchestral rehearsal in an ancient chapel.

The most invigorating aspect

of Edinburgh however was the display of strength by young British filmmakers. Lewinsky on one side, Ridley Scott's *Alien* and Alan Clarke's sensational *Look at Me!* (not helped by being panned down from a much more extended television production). But Widerberg's irretrievably messed-up reading of Knud Hamsen's *Victria*.

The main prize was shared

by Francis Ford Coppola's

Apocalypse Now, after Coen's *Heart of Darkness*, and

currents back to the parental protection of the conductor, who now takes on the character of a dictator, hanguing his willing minors in Hitlerian German.

Roddam's *Quadraphenia*, which had already opened in London by the time of its Edinburgh show.

(*The Tent*), a magical, metric, endlessly patient study of sex, life and death in Circassia. Other new directors are concerned with aspects of contemporary alienation. Muzafar Ali's *Gaman* is about dispossessed rural folk in the city: the middle-class hero of Saeed Mirza's *Strange Face of Armand Desai* personifies other aspects of decay, in a society united only by cheating and mistrust.

Dogon who died at the age of 122.

The Italians themselves were

obliged to provide the major share of the films on show. The Taviani Brothers' *Il Prato*, a slightly bizarre bourgeois tragedy (with the bite of a rabid dog as its dénouement) seemed

a strange successor to their

Padre Padrone Vancini's *Un dramma borghese* is a turbulent drama of incestuous attraction between a father and his daughter.

Incest is a theme currently

fascinating European film-

makers. Bernardo Bertolucci's

La Luna concerns the incest

between a mother and her

15-year-old son (Matthew Barry).

(The film's position under the Child Protection Act is, again, questionable.) Perhaps it was

the strength of expectation that

made local indignation so strong

when the film ran out to

be Art, with a capital A, but a

rather enjoyable melodrama

verging on the *kitsch* when

Bertolucci uses his favourite

device of an operatic back-

ground to pitch up the characters' emotional turmoils.

The Venetians were certainly

a good deal better pleased with

their festival and its director-star, Maurizio Nichetti, one of

the biggest ovations ever heard

at a festival, that burrows shamelessly from Tsai

Woody Allen and almost every-

body else, that loses control of

its extravagances, that drives it

to hibernation while Taormina

dwinkles on, that has

been poorly represented

but Jean Rouch's *Fimerailles*

A Bongo: le riel Anai, 1849

1971, an uncompromised record

by this great anthropological

film-maker of the elaborate fun-

eral celebrations for an old

Italian, anyway, have decided

once and for all that he is their Woody Allen.

There were some attractively modest entries from Eastern Europe. Miklós Jancsó turned up with a wordless, 20-minute short, which revisited a film made 14 years ago and the sad, ruined synagogue which figured in that earlier picture. Andor Hunyadi's film by a new director, András Jelen's *The Little Valentine*, is an untidy, whimsical and very appealing portrait of a likeable young would-be drop-out.

From the USSR, Georgii Daniela's *Autumn Marathon*, a surprisingly lightly handled portrait of a hero dangerously

socially, went on to win the

Grand Prix at the San Sebastián

FESTIVALS OF THE YEAR: THEATRE

Avignon

victimized Czechoslovak director Otmar Krejca with *Waiting for Godot* and Musset's *Lorenzaccio*. *Godot*, the better show of the two, had a resplendent cast including Georges Wilson (Vladimir) and Michel Bouquet (Pozzo), not to mention the comedian Rufus as Estragon. Impressive as these names are, they formed a precarious ensemble, particularly in the central duet between Wilson's nuanced character acting and Rufus's no-nonsense comic attack.

Lorenzaccio, unfortunately for Krejca, has a long Avignon tradition, this being one of the supreme achievements of the Vilar-Gérard Philippe partnership. Like many of this year's audience, I remember that 1957 production, from which Lorenzaccio emerged as a part as great as Faust, and the Court-d'Honneur, its asymmetrical Gothic windows and archways glowing with conspiratorial lights and shadowy figures, as a setting for romantic intrigue more Florentine than Florence.

Krejca, too, directed a marvellous version of the play which I saw in Prague ten years ago, using the Medicis' enslavement to Rome as a direct parallel with Czechoslovakia after the Soviet invasion. That was exploited in 1969, and heroic acts performed circumstances (not long afterwards Krejca was wounded out of Prague by the local *apparatchiki*). Revived ten years later, on the other side of the Soviet divide, the life has gone out of it. For, substantially, this is the same production all over again. The main alteration is in the setting: in Prague a Kafkaesque *sloboda* of *Avignon*, a bright white platform with the entire company and their props in view throughout the evening. But, as for scenic invention, everything from the unrolling of the assassinated Alessandro to Philippe Strozzi's treadmill walk round the body of his poisoned daughter is as I remember it from Prague.

What remains is a doughty piece of stage management on the theme of simulacra. While the Medicis are revelling in their lives of privileged corruption, traders are suffering to silence; insurrection is suppressed on the streets. On Krejca's stage, all is brought into single focus with a slow-motion sword duel moving over the set adding a single clash of steel on steel while elsewhere Duke Alessandro is having his portrait painted and Lorenzo is meditating his act of vengeance. It is a virtue of the show that it takes no easy advantage over Alessandro, whom Duke Raffaello presents as an amiable playboy too sure of his own power to need to assert in what he lacks is a comparable partner.

Whatever the play's political overtones, the bird pantomime is matched to each species, comically or lyrically, but like everything else in the show it is refined to the minimum gesture needed to evoke a heron, a stork, a sparrow, and in a flash they exchange, if need be, the scene into one of the innumerable illustrative parables that impel the birds on their pilgrimage. The result is a consummate piece of narrative theatre, told in memory-haunting images into which you can read manifold themes. Watching it is like watching patterns in a fire.

And so, reluctantly, to the Palais des Papes and the return to the West of the long-

vicimized Czechoslovak director Otmar Krejca with *Waiting for Godot* and Musset's *Lorenzaccio*. *Godot*, the better show of the two, had a resplendent cast including Georges Wilson (Vladimir) and Michel Bouquet (Pozzo), not to mention the comedian Rufus as Estragon. Impressive as these names are, they formed a precarious ensemble, particularly in the central duet between Wilson's nuanced character acting and Rufus's no-nonsense comic attack.

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Dublin

In spite of the poverty, political turmoil and local malice that have dogged most of its life, the Dublin Theatre Festival this year achieved its twenty-first anniversary, and celebrated the event with a characteristic blend of what some cynics describe as "world dementia". Homegrown productions of brand-new work have always been the cornerstone of the Dublin programme. I know of no other European festival that has taken such a risk ever since, much less prolonged the gamble over 20 years.

This year, the policy yielded the regular quota of duds, though they are the kind of duds you would only find in Ireland. Thanks to the EEC, Dublin now has the appearance of a boom town, and one observes playwrights struggling to make some sense out of a country awash with easy money and consumer goods while undergoing the experience locally known as "post Papal withdrawal". This does not furnish aesthetic justification for plays like Jim Sheridan's *The Happy Prince* (a chaotic reworking of *The Beggar's Opera*) or Brian Lynne's *Wise Men of Salzburg* (two hours of sexual misery among the hard-drinking ex-Trinity crowd in the suburbs), but at least you can see why they are there. And there are some plays that really do justice to the new Ireland.

The most obvious example is Maire Binchy's *The Half Promised Land* (Peacock), a piece words removed from the nationally self-obsessed Irish stage tradition. Miss Binchy's theme is cultural collision, which she explores by dispatching two young convent school-teachers to Israel. For their Mother Superior this is a price-less chance to view the Holy Land: for the girls, it is a free holiday helping out on a kibbutz including the chance of getting off with Israeli soldiers.

In the first half of the play we watch their sensational Celtic incursions into the Hebraic militia, but while this sport is in progress Miss Binchy is stealthily introducing her main characters, a young English couple desperate to achieve full membership of the community, to obtain it. Her wife consents to an abortion so as not to exceed the regulation quota of two children, and the play preserves its Irish link by involving the shocked participation of one of the Dublin girls in the ordeal.

At this point, the play seems to reach a happy ending, the real drama begins with the theft of a large sum of money from the village kitchen where Miss Binchy's husband was on duty. As he points out, he had no conceivable motive for stealing it, but there it is under his bed, and the couple leave in quiet disgrace. News later filters through that Jill has been picked up for desecrating synagogues and committed to a mental hospital. In its bitter final twist, the play reveals the theft as a frame-up, staged by an old German Jew who wanted no Aryan outsiders on the kibbutz.

The play's success owes much to its command of character focus. We meet all the people straight away, but not to know them by sequence of tonal shifts from the Irish, to the friendly young English and Israelis, and finally to the Auschwitz generation without whom the Negev Desert would not have flowered. The play thus begins by capturing the spectator through comic charm, then introduces the element of suspense from which it expands into a revenge fable that applies no less to the memory-haunted Irish than to Europe's Jews.

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Cyril Cusack in *A Life*

With the main festival his own life to "know what I production, Hugh Leonard's *A Life* (Abbey) one must also begin by awarding marks to the first descent from the took-ing. Leonard is a special person, eccentric for a few hours from his wife and patch things up with an old girl-friend whom he has not seen for eight years. Far from picking things up, his reunion with Mary and her looting husband Lar prompts a blazing row which throws all three of them back into their youth on the far side of the stage. From this moment, Leonard sustains a double action for the two groups, unfolding a triangular relationship between two average Dubliners and an outsider. It is clear that Mary

himself prefers the message of *Falstaff* (John Woodvine) as a Magpie for the others to dance round.

Without disrespect to a very jolly revival, it highlights the increasing absurdity of asking whether the RSC is having a good year or not, so much of its repertoire is held over from the past. I suppose its greatest success this year has been the European tour of *Coriolanus*, already two years old. The Aldwych was thriving on John Barton's *Lover's Labour's Lost*, Michael Bogdanov's *The Taming of the Shrew* and Peter Brook's *Antony and Cleopatra*, in 1978 transfers; not to mention the transfers of *The Churchill Play*, *Play*, and *The Merchant of Venice* to The Warehouse. And perhaps any judgment on the company should be reserved for work that has had a year or more to grow, rather than for some sketchy Stratford première taking its first faltering step towards the Aldwych, the West End or the European circuit.

"Sketchy", I admit, is not the word for this year's novelties, least of all for Terry Hands' boldly conceptualized *Twelfth Night*, which leads off with leafless trees and brings them in full leaf at half-time. The vegetation serves as cover for Feste (Geoffrey Hutchings) who spies on most of the action from one vantage point or another, inviting us to witness the comedy through his eyes. This leaves Sir Roy and, more importantly, their usual slyness, which effects a staggering transformation of the Illyrian romancer.

Gareth Thomas's *Orsino* goes through the play in rage of frustration, ardour which, for once, lends conviction to his last act threat to Viola's life. Hardly surprising when what he is up against in Kate Nicholls's *Olivier* is not the usual ice mademoiselle but a bouncy, teasing schoolgirl who practises love as a boisterous field-sport. The downing true feeling when Viola (*Cherie Lunghi*) enters the game is one of the show's triumphs; the other is John Woodvine's Marvolio, which is without rival the funniest and most inventive I have seen.

Meanwhile, at Stratford and in London, the RSC embarked on a four-pronged Russian season with a pair of productions to gladden the hearts of Kremlinologists and tourists alike. The first, *Antony and Cleopatra*, was exciting theatre still evolving from its pre��的 productions of *Chalki*, Neil Coward's *Semperoper* and *Mondadori* and *The Threepenny Opera*.

Curtis Paille's production of Tom McGrath's *Antony* was exciting theatre still evolving as a production, and Paille had a smaller production from the Traverse season proper, Michael Wilcox's *Reeds*, which showed more of his strength as a director. *Reeds* is a play about teenage homosexuality, prostitution, about "rent boys", which uses its vulgar wit to revealing effect.

Rowan Atkinson, failing somewhat short of hilarious, still turned in one of the funniest of the nighting shows. There was mere Satanic point to the comedy and explanation of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Man of La Mancha* and *Stripsy*, and it boasted another memorable performance from Neil Coward, himself as well as a brazen, musical surprise from Jane Murray. From the student end, of things, Umbrella Theatre Company from Brighton had the bravura and the wit to attempt the first British production of some of the cabaret acts of the great German clown Karl Valentin. Not every performance helped, but Eva Shaffer, as a clown and the show's translator, made a real contribution to the festival. —N.C.

Stratford

Well before the Americans began pouring in, the Royal Shakespeare Company launched its Stratford season with Trevor Nunn's vertical tourist production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*: an uncompromisingly Warwickshire entertainment featuring cohorts of conker-swinging juveniles, a village-idiot Sam and design graphics by John Napier that tell you still finding in the same place when you got back on the set.

No one could dislike a show that combines such affection with such high-spirited comic invention, and if there is not much more to be said above it, that is because it does not suffer a strong resemblance to Trevor Nunn's 1975 version: the same domestic emphasis, the same farcical *Orfeo* approach in

London Loves Annie

BEST MUSICAL OF THE YEAR

PLAYERS & PLAYERS AWARD

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Dublin

In spite of the poverty, political turmoil and local malice that have dogged most of its life, the Dublin Theatre Festival this year achieved its twenty-first anniversary, and celebrated the event with a characteristic blend of what some cynics describe as "world dementia". Homegrown productions of brand-new work have always been the cornerstone of the Dublin programme. I know of no other European festival that has taken such a risk ever since, much less prolonged the gamble over 20 years.

This year, the policy yielded the regular quota of duds, though they are the kind of duds you would only find in Ireland. Thanks to the EEC, Dublin now has the appearance of a boom town, and one observes playwrights struggling to make some sense out of a country awash with easy money and consumer goods while undergoing the experience locally known as "post Papal withdrawal". This does not furnish aesthetic justification for plays like Jim Sheridan's *The Happy Prince* (a chaotic reworking of *The Beggar's Opera*) or Brian Lynne's *Wise Men of Salzburg* (two hours of sexual misery among the hard-drinking ex-Trinity crowd in the suburbs), but at least you can see why they are there. And there are some plays that really do justice to the new Ireland.

The play's success owes much to its command of character focus. We meet all the people straight away, but not to know them by sequence of tonal shifts from the Irish, to the friendly young English and Israelis, and finally to the Auschwitz generation without whom the Negev Desert would not have flowered. The play thus begins by capturing the spectator through comic charm, then introduces the element of suspense from which it expands into a revenge fable that applies no less to the memory-haunted Irish than to Europe's Jews.

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FESTIVALS OF THE YEAR: MUSIC 1

its thirty-second year, under music festival of reverence still prides in its productions of operas, as it did when went there a quarter ago. The present artis, Bernard Lefort, has a more diverse and perhaps less grandly he plans with an attitude, rue showman, and his musicians with the of a distinguished professional singer. The was typical of his at least on paper: a pera, interestingly cast, produced by the Lavelli team; a Romantic lazzett's *Werther*, in o Teresa Berganza who international career had something highly in two singers.

there were solo w the principal visiting horal and symphony and a series of works devoted to the work of Ligeti. All this, and a place in an historic, bring town where the is tempered by the and where it is hard whether to explore w alleys, or to rove anse or Van Gogh or merely to find a pool and relax until

it is a self-confessed. For this year's *Figaro* he booked ester son as Countess ay as Cherubino and Marriner with the of St Martin in the All were known of this festival, and tish admirers could intent with the charming and true by the ladies (Miss specially affecting in sapere), Miss Master- er from a secure snor to a melting e sono) and by the olved playing and perhaps too few to too many urgent Mr Marriner. There some painful musical as member Lefort ought to have count. This was a fine and *Nozze di Figaro* x its life, with the enthusiastic support e murderous attacks ant but determinedly producer. It was again in *Werther*, cancelled her appear- she had done at arden some weeks a Nadine Denize, who lace, made an appeal to a strong gister and great supported by if no by clear her upper register if looked well and true colour in the there was a swell- phie in Cheshire, resonant and su- led Albert Jean- meau and an ideal Jules Bastin. Jean- adesus conducted orchestra with more subtlety (*Werther* of exquisite nuances), or say that Jean's production harmed s of their singing and on despite the parallel action a supplement, con- cernably illuminate sener and his three drew from Goethe- rld opera was called after a famous male of the eighteenth modern evocation of a world in music of dealing with Por- d his colleague with their patron, the Prince Sansevero, and Wolfgang Mozart, at the court where singing. The piece

is, of course, modern, a semi-historical fantasy by Dominique Fernandez whose response to the modern revival of baroque operas might be echoed by many others who are thrilled by the virtuous music composed for the castrato of those days. Who must constantly wonder what Farinelli or Gundagai really sounded like. Lefort persuaded Fernandez to make a player of his novel and Roger Blanchard to provide suitable music from the Naples of the day, to match it as a double warhorse for the British countertenor James Bowman and the American high tenor Bruce Brewer. It was a delight to hear them both, with their technique and interpretative artistry on the arias by Puccini and Hasse and Alessandro Scarlatti. Neither singer has the attack, nor the clarion ring, associated with the castrato voice, though both have agility and nuance as well as lovely sound to compensate. Both clomped about the stage in capacious uniforms topped with plumed helmets, struck attitudes and wore off elaborate cadenzas. The music was stylishly controlled by Ray Weiskopf. The effect was more absurd than evocative.—W.S.M.

Aldeburgh

Attention was properly paid at Aldeburgh to the centenaries of Britten's two main teachers, Frank Bridge and John Ireland. It was fascinating, in one programme, to hear the fairly conventional early Bridge of the Suite for strings (1910) and the uplifted, cogently dramatic, though eminently lyrical, late master of the Allegro moderato from the unfinished string symphony, here given a vigorous first performance by the English Chamber Orchestra under Steuart Bedford. Likewise the mature Britten of the Nocturne (1958), sung with undimmed artistry by Sir Peter Pears, was contrasted with the *Underworld* of the so-called "farewell", *Young Apollo* (1939), a compact piano concerto movement, remarkably robust and aggressive in manner, withdrawn by the composer but now revived in striking fashion with Michael Roll as solo pianist.

Ireland and Bridge shared the recital given, on his sixtieth birthday, by Sir Peter, with Mr Bedford. The singer craved indulgence for vocal fatigue at the end of a busy festival, and sang with no more than a thread of voice, but what a beguiling thread, deployed with matchless skill to point words, articulate phrases and mould legato line in fine songs, well varied in mood. By way of encore, the audience serenaded the birthday boy with the appropriate song. He had two further appearances to make on that auspicious day, one in *Eugene Onegin*, the other reading the White Knight's poem in the course of Matthew Best's operatic version of Alice, brought to Aldeburgh by King's College Cambridge Musical Society.

As a university show, this was resourcefully done with most attractive sets and costumes by Emily Greenwood, and pleasantly Mendesque light music. The cast were Philip Ledger (the college's musical director, and artistic director of this festival) as the Knave of Hearts, his wife Mary Wells as a redoubtable Queen of Hearts, and the veteran Cambridge music don, Philip Radcliffe as an imperious, languid, even melodious Caterpillar.—W.S.M.

This year's principal opera at Aldeburgh was *Eugene Onegin*. The performance, given largely by a student ensemble—the opera was written a century ago, for the Moscow Conservatory—augured well for the Britten-Pears School for

Edinburgh

In the past, the artistic director of the Edinburgh International Festival has always been able to plan two or three years in advance. When John Drummond was appointed to the post last year he had some months only to put together his first festival. Granted even the goodwill of companies and individual artists the world over, few will have expected more than a makeshift festival for 1979: artistic celebrities are always fully booked for two or more years ahead. Astonishingly Drummond came up at once with a generous three-week festival intensive to all the arts, full of interest and truly international.—W.S.M.

That most romantic of romantic operas, *La Fanchon*, opened the programme at the King's Theatre. Only in war hardly romantic. First of all, circumstances conspired against it: a late start (after noisy protests at the inefficiency of the ushering in the theatre) and a Violetta, Jim Gomez, who rose from a sickbed to sing and thus was most plausible, if not in all the best ways, in the last act. But essentially the sentimentality had its roots in Roger Norrington's conducting. Cleaning off the romantic accretions does for Monteverdi, perhaps for Mozart, but for Verdi the ironic acid approach bites into the very fabric of the opera: we heard a measured, stiff, over-intellectual account, conveying a sense of the work's bone structure but bereft of expressive flesh. The music needed a warmer sound and a more natural response.

Miss Gomez made a brave attempt: she was a touching, tender Violetta, and did some sensitive things with the music, though by the end of the evening her pitch control was slipping. There was a clearly, unaffectedly sung Alfredo, with some style, from Keith Lewis, but it was left to Thomas Hemsley as Germont père to show how the amplitude of Verdi's lines can be realized and how they can be made bear expressive weight. And he in particular had more to sing than usual, for with the opera given uncurt, he had a lengthy cabaret in Act II.

Jonathan Miller's production had some fresh ideas and much perceptive handling of character and relationships; rather less successful were the public scenes, treated perhaps too cosily—we were merely in the semi-monde. I wish Dr Miller would so often have his characters sing seated, which touts the operatic convention and is cramping emotionally (physically too); and the deathbed realism in Act III was out of place—medical precision is no more relevant

to those who like their festivals to have a theme must have applauded the astute planning by John Drummond of the Edinburgh's second week. The influence of dance in general and Diaghilev in particular was to be felt everywhere and often the less prestigious

size. The arrival of guests chez Larina in the first scene had the impact not of a domestic flurry but of a major emotional crisis; the Letter Scene stretched out, lost something of its spontaneity and freshness; and so much music was frenetic, so many passages were painted purple, that one became emotionally wrung out, incredulous of so many cries of "Wolf!"

Plausibility in opera is not always important; but even at the cost of experience and vocal maturity it was good to see young people playing the young lovers here. Marie McLaughlin particularly impressed as Tatiana, full and bright of voice, with fine dynamic control, impressive in the very passionate letter scene and still more so in her final dismissal of Onegin. That role was sung in a firm and rich baritone by Richard Jackson, who made

Nurmela was a firm and aggressive Enrico.

Anthony Hope conducted cautiously in the opening scenes, more than understandable in the circumstances, and then opened out to direct the opera with considerable fire. He was admirably supported by the Manchester Camerata and the local chorus.

Much of the rest of the festival was like *Lucia di Lammermoor*, based on the work of Sir William Scott. There were no performances, alas, of *La folie Folie de Parth*, or *La donna del lago*, but the BBC Northern Symphony played Berlioz's *Rob Roy* overture and projections at the Spa cinema wrestled with a print (in none too good condition) of *Jeanne d'Arc*—possibly Quentin Durward, the other Scott film of the early 1950s, was in a better state of preservation. Fulton Mackay read from the diary in film, round Scottish tones and the newly reopened Art Gallery had an excellently chosen exhibition of painting mainly inspired by the novels.

The concept of having a "literary" music festival is admirable and offers enormous scope for the years ahead. In 1980 Buxton will add another week or two to the present fortnight and the plan is to celebrate Shakespeare in French opera. Berlioz's *Béatrice et Bénédict* will play in tandem with *Macbeth* (the same set) and Thomas Allen will sing the title role of Ambroise Thomas's unjustly neglected *Hamlet*. And after that? To Schiller or Goethe perhaps. Or to Scribe and Sardou. Or even to a festival featuring the libertines. Lorenzo de Ponte or Felice Romanini would both make admirable subjects. Buxton, after a baptism of illness, got off to a good enough start to make future planning one of the main festival occupations.—J.H.

Perhaps Buxton should have arranged a cover for so important a rôle, but the budgets for such luxuries. So Deborah Cook, a coloratura soprano who has appeared with the Glyndebourne Touring Company, flew from Munich arriving in time for curtain-up. At this rather put paid to the impression of the conductor Anthony Malcolm Fraser to play Lucia complete. The related scene for Lucia and the chaplain Rainaldo before the marriage contract is signed had to be hastily sliced out again, although the quarrel between Edgardo and Enrico in the final act, in which Lucia takes no part, remained in. And the latter does much to explain the plot.

Miss Cook had a local triumph and displayed no signs of anxiety. The voice, once it

had adjusted to an unfamiliar house, sounded accurate and well controlled, though I suspect, that Malcolm Fraser was looking for a Lucia with more character, obsessed with that ghost who haunts the grounds of Ravenswood. A blonde spectre hovers over the castle at the back of Roger Burtt's evocative, mist-shrouded set to recall the curse on this particular part of Scotland.

Perhaps the new scenario put together by the director, and the production designer, was not much improved from the Manu- ra. But a revelation came at the February 1979 *Gardca* in 1959 when he took the role of Lucia. His voice, once it

had been put to the test, was a real success. So Deborah Cook, a coloratura soprano who has appeared with the Glyndebourne Touring Company, flew from Munich arriving in time for curtain-up. At this rather put paid to the impression of the conductor Anthony Malcolm Fraser to play Lucia complete. The related scene for Lucia and the chaplain Rainaldo before the marriage contract is signed had to be hastily sliced out again, although the quarrel between Edgardo and Enrico in the final act, in which Lucia takes no part, remained in. And the latter does much to explain the plot.

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Elisabeth Söderström—an unforgettable recitalist and (see next page) Glyndebourne's commanding Leonore

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FESTIVALS OF THE YEAR: MUSIC 2

Florence

In the early 1970s when Massimo Bogiancino was at La Scala plans were drawn up for a *King* cycle. Luciano Visconti was first choice as producer, reasonably enough in view of his successes at the house, but eventually he declined the invitation, probably because he already sensed that his health was beginning to fail him and that he would not be able to see the project through.

So the Scala Ring began in 1973 with a borrowed *Rheingold*, directed by Günther Rennert, while Luca Ronconi and Pier Luigi Pizzi were engaged as the director/designer team for the next two stages in the tetralogy, *Walküre* and *Siegfried*. The switch from long-established and revered producers to a fairly avant-garde combination was a sudden and bold one. In the event it turned out a little too bold. The Ronconi/Pizzi approach to Wagner's music had detractors and supporters in about equal numbers, but the detractors won the day. *Götterdämmerung* never materialized and the Ring gradually slid off the Scala's repertory.

When Bogiancino left Milan to run the Maggio Musicale, and the Teatro Comunale in Florence, he brought with him this ambition to stage a Ring in Italy. It began to look possible when Zubin Mehta was attracted by the idea of conducting Wagner in Florence before tackling his first cycle in Vienna. La Scala promised what remained of *Walküre* and *Siegfried*, which by all accounts is quite a lot, in return for an option on the completed cycle. Ronconi and Pizzi were engaged to begin where they should have started in the first place, at the beginning with *Rheingold*.

So this year's Maggio took on an unusually Germanic aspect. It opened with *Wozzeck*, albeit sung in Italian, but there was little doubt *Rheingold* was to be the centrepiece of the festival. Florence was chosen as the city for the early summer meeting of intendants of the world's opera houses, most of whom were expecting to attend the *Rheingold* first night. In the event they did not see it, or rather saw very little of it. Pizzi's scenery obstinately refused to be contained within the Teatro Comunale stage and the première had to be postponed not once but twice. And when *Rheingold* did emerge, to considerable acclaim from most of the Italian press and certainly a far warmer welcome than the Scala productions had received, it was without the Valhalla envisaged by Pizzi.

The Ronconi *Rheingold* is a bizarre mixture of styles, alternately brilliant and perverse. It is always possible, of course, that what appears bizarre at the start will become translucently clear as the cycle progresses. *Rheingold* is scheduled to be performed in tandem with *Walküre*, reworked from its Scala staging next February (first night, 26th), with Siegfried coming in later in the year.

The bed of the Rhine looks like the internal segment of a vast water-wheel with the inhabitants treading their way up to the surface. The Rhinemaidens themselves were doubled on stage by a number of naked *Lötlis* with frizzy blonde wigs, which caused a certain amount of local consternation but did not make much of a dramatic point. Pizzi and Ronconi throughout are much concerned with matters mechanical: Alberich's workshop has its wheels, too, and indeed suggests that it could have been a cradle of the Industrial Revolution. Wotan and Fricka, by contrast, live in an air of tall revolving mirrors, which Pizzi and Ronconi used to such brilliant effect in Gluck's *Orfeo* here a couple of festivals back. The stage pictures are consistently provocative and occasionally dazzling, but further judgment must wait until they take their place in the total Ring scheme.

Zubin Mehta succeeded in drawing an idiomatic playing from an orchestra inexperienced in Wagner; he was a model of control and calm while problems were still being resolved on stage and hopes for his *Walküre* stand high. The performance of the evening came from Heribert Belebach's *Loge*, quick and precise in voice and movement, cogent in his arguments and, appropriately enough, as fiery as his bright red jacket. Simon Estes is still finding his way around Wotan and possibly lacks the vocal authority for the role. Florence's female team led by Carol Wyatt (Fricka), Marita Napier (Wotan) and Marita Somay (Frigg) could not have done credit to a house where *Rheingold* is part of the staple repertoire instead of a considerable rarity. On to next February: Florence is showing great enterprise.—J.H.

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Glyndebourne

Glyndebourne has long been casting around for a successor to the Rossini whose comedies sent patrons away so happily in the days when Vittorio Gui was first choice as producer, reasonably enough in view of his successes at the house, but eventually he declined the invitation, probably because he already sensed that his health was beginning to fail him and that he would not be able to see the project through.

The case for Haydn could scarcely have been more powerfully argued than in the approach to the opera of John Cox and his designer, Sir Hugh Casson, in the playing of the LPO under Bernard Haitink. The team managed to get around the tiresome and arid intricacies of Leopold's libretto, which amazingly Haydn was not alone in setting by turning the opera into an entertainment seemingly given impromptu at a country house party. Hoots and gurgles alike pour on the fetching clothes of nymphs and shepherds so that they can play out—and sing out—the lifting of the curse Diana the Huntress has put on the *Rheingold* and the Ring gradually slid off the Scala's repertory.

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The question mark over the evening is provided by Haydn himself. The final act, a brief affair, is inconclusive and, with the exception of one exquisite duet, musically drab. Much of the foregoing score is deliciously sweet, particularly under Bernard Haitink's loving baton, but there is a lack of theatrical muscle in the melodies. A touch of Rossini's dramatic skill would have been welcome.

Haitink's control of the *Così fan tutte* in the month was also beyond question. He is growing in stature as an opera conductor season by season. The men were stronger this year too, with John Aler (Ferrando) and Alan Titus (Guglielmo), both making their Glyndebourne debuts, bringing more character to Mozart's garrulous aria with horn accompaniment. Ronconi and Pizzi were engaged to begin where they should have started in the first place, at the beginning with *Rheingold*.

The kind of special advocacy that Glyndebourne can provide justifies the production of a work there as unequivocally second-rate as *Die schweigsame Frau*. Under Andrew Davis's direction, the LPO playing with polish, the score sounded rich and always translucent in this sharp acoustic, and it was the pace: the sensitivity of the performance to Haydn's meticulous one to the debilitation of the musical coagulation that is implicit in the work where (for example) feigned love is created in music so genuinely expressive as to be deceptive.

Michael Almås's set is good-looking but very cramped. Within it John Cox's production is nicely detailed but not fussy, nor as close to coarseness as I fancy Strauss might have liked. Several of the 1977 cast were still there, including the suave, masterly Barber of Peter Gortlieb. Jerome Pruyer's pleasant Henry and the neatly drawn Theodosia of Johanna Peters. There was a new Sir Alfonso in Marius Rintzler, who did not quite convincingly cut the figure of a peppery, superannuated English admiral, sympathetically though he took the part and warmly though he sang it (in the closing scene especially). Aminta was now



La fedeltà premiata: Julia Hamari, James Atherton, Kathleen Battle, Max-Rene Cossetti

the opera is next revived. One other debut should be noted at the end of an outstanding season, that of Stephen Barlow, who conducted the last three performances of *Schweigsame Frau* in nest and assured style. A 25-year-old to watch.—J.H.

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sung, with considerable precision and still more charm, by Kristina Laki—an attractive performance by a singer we shall surely be hearing at Glyndebourne again. Karen Flowers warbled wittily as Isotta and Joseph Rouleau, replacing Federico Davia, made his house debut in a witty and well sung *Venuzi*.—S.S.

Glyndebourne's season opened with a new production of Beethoven's *Fidelio*, another venture by the tried and true collaboration of John Berry as scenic artist and Peter Hall as producer. It is very plain and well balanced, and the singing is superbly satisfying to look at. The eye chiefly admires the marvellous yet careful lighting, bright and bland for the most part necessitating sun-hats for those who work out of doors, emphasizing the sunlight enjoyed by them but denied the prisoners below who are as much the subject of the drama.

There is nothing grand about *Fidelio*, visually: this production begins by proposing chickens in the prison-yard, bereft grass-widows waiting in the forecastle and a flower-bed dug by Rocco while he awaits the arrival of Pizarro (on a barge, I am reliably informed, though it was invisible to the prompt-side spectators). We were in unmistakable Biedermeier territory, even if year or so prematurely—Beethoven, not Sir Peter, first tells us so, with his opening scene for Marzelline at her ironing-board and Jaquino on porters-duty. Curt Appelgren's bespectacled Rocco, a true

rustic, brought the point home, as did the drably uniformed Fidelio of Elisabeth Söderström, no star but a member of the prison staff until she began to sing.

Then we heard a brand-new *Fidelio*, cogent, perfectly in command of the part, marvelously urgent in dialogue or in the most famous sung words ("Noch heute"), a new discovery because she is not at all the conventional high-dramatic soprano, but a lyric voice with particular powers of communication: Rocco hardly needs to tell us about her white hands and soft skin. She spoke her lines like a gruff, broken-voiced boy. In the dungeon she conveyed every *fright*, of hope, of tension until her husband lifted his hand. The balances of the play had been perfectly adjusted. Her grand solo, beginning with "Abechlicher", was surprisingly lovely, variegated in timbre and flexibility, even if the runs had more intensity than finesse.

But here comes her Leonore had Appelgren's endearing, strongly sung Rocco, Elisabeth Söderström unusually firm and spirited Marzelline, a tower of strength in ensembles, and Ian Calley's engaging. The Pizarro, Robert Almås, did not much suggest the unscrupulous martinet, for all his Napoleonic uniform, nor did the singer's voice convey the keen edge of authority in, for example, his duet with Rocco. Still less did the desperation of "Ha! auch ein Augenblick". The Florestan, repeated his dark, incisive,

Anton de Ridder, also proved vocally disappointing, harsh and unsteady under pressure. Michael Langdon brought benign authority and ripe tone to the Minister's utterances.

Even with weaknesses in the cast, the performance was exceptionally powerful because the production missed no dramatic point and attempted no eccentric solutions, but kept one's eyes firmly on Leonore. Her *Fidelio* song, "Sie ist die Legende", was included, delivered with naturalness and point: the two choral scenes were realistically and purposefully staged (and well sung too). In the pit Bernard Haitink conducted a spirited, firmly shaped account of the score, though the LPO sounded somewhat nervous on the opening night.

Sir Peter's production of Monteverdi's *Ritorno d'Ulisse in patria*, now seven years old, returned to Glyndebourne in Raymond Leppard's performing version as "engaging as ever, even though the flying arrangements had to be changed this season. More, sumptuous than Kent Opera's cogent recension, less eccentric than the Ponchielli/Harnoncourt one shown at Edinburgh last year, Glyndebourne's *Ulisse* entertains the eye with its supper scene, the lively display of archery, the comic portrayal of Iris, by Alexander Oliver, and the various appearances of heavenly beings, while always holding attention on the principal theme of the reunion of Odysseus and Penelope. —This year Richard Stilwell repeated his dark, incisive,

musical account of the name-part. Frederick von Sudek brought touching youthful fragility and a numbed firmness of purpose to *Péleope's* scenes, her soft raves particularly beguiling. Ann Murray's Minerva and Patrick Power's handsome Telemachus were meritorious new assumptions.

The summer festival season was followed by a tour of three productions, in performances which brought forward, as in previous years, Glyndebourne choristers and rising soloists. Peter Hall's staging of *Fidelio* looked as honest and impressive as at home, though the tour producer, Guus Mostert, had to pars down some scenic details (eg. Rocco's chickens). Musically too the performance in Oxford sustained the Glyndebourne standard, with strong, sturdy conducting by Nicholas Braithwaite, Philip Langridge's powerful, sensitive Florestan (the voice much bigger than last heard), and a trim, determined Leonore, touchingly expressive, by Maria Molin from whom much may be expected. Malcolm Donnelly made a grim, quasi-Napoleonic Pizarro, William Pollard a positive Positive Jaquino.

Haydn's *La fedeltà premiata* was conducted by Simon Rattle whose cast included, notably, Kate Flowers in bright, simple voice as the fickle Nerina, Fiona Kimball with poignant, dark mezzo colours for Celli's music, Ian Calley excellent in Fiend's florid tenor, and Jack Strauch truly amusing as the fond and foolish Pierrot.

Peter Hall's production of Mozart's *Così fan tutte* on Glyndebourne's tour last year, and a close replica of the original. This autumn, at Southwark, the balance of characters seemed to have tilted a shade, making Jane Findlay's Dorabella more purposeful, Helen Walker's Fiordiligi, Catherine McCord's splendid Despina possibly more like mistress than maid, and Brian Donlan's Alfonso a less than majestic master of ceremonies. One might have expected that Richard Jackson's expert, savoury Guglielmo would dwarf an understudy Ferrando (Alexander Oliver, regrettably, was suffering from sinusitis); in the event Adrian Thompson sang the part most credibly, though his stage manner was less assured than in the May opera, a week later, where his Lindoro was wholly delightful. Braithwaite conducted this *Così fan tutte* in fine style, with plenty of grace and wit. The Southwark Sinfonia was the orchestra for this tour, when at home in all three scores, even when hard-driven.

W.S.M.

Ronconi throughout are much concerned with matters mechanical: Alberich's workshop has its wheels, too, and indeed suggests that it could have been a cradle of the Industrial Revolution. Wotan and Fricka, by contrast, live in an air of tall revolving mirrors, which Pizzi and Ronconi used to such brilliant effect in Gluck's *Orfeo* here a couple of festivals back. The stage pictures are consistently provocative and occasionally dazzling, but further judgment must wait until they take their place in the total Ring scheme.

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John Joubert's *Herefordshire Canticles* received an impressive first performance. The score, first performance, strongly carved choral settings of *These Things Shall Be*, and an idiomatically informed one of Poulenec's *Sept. Répons des Ténèbres*, in both of which the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra was a valuable supplement to the excellence of the choir.—K.L.

The great attraction of this year's Holland Festival for an outsider was César Friedlrich's new production of Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* (at least for one who was thrilled by the latest Covent Garden Ring, Swedish *Meistersinger*, Stuttgart *Pariser*, and Bayreuth *Tannhäuser*). But there was also a triple bill of ballet, *conservatorium*, and *melodrama*, written in the eighteenth century and performed as nearly as possible according to the practice of those days; likewise a largely French quintuple bill which included a choreographic reconstruction of Satie's *ballet Relâche* (the well-known film is only its central portion). And it was axiomatic to say *Nobis opem*. All great art forms were represented by the Frankfurt Opera, which last year in Edinburgh had only facilities for a concert performance that bowed me over.

The *Tristan* began most unfavourably. Wagner prescribed a sunny afternoon on a boat-deck with a tent of carpets erected as Isolde's private quarters. Friedlrich (and his designer, Heinrich Wendel) left out the tent and plunged the stage into inky blackness relieved by irrelevant concentrations of searchlights. There was no room for Isolde to sit down. There were no handles for Brangäne to lift. Isolde had to sing her curse directly to Kurwenal, not Tristan, let alone herself, and at "scratches was beside" she actually assaulted him, though Tristan is meant.

So went on, a grotesque

etc., much more so in the final act ("O, diese Sonne"). Yet the third act made a strong effect, perhaps because it represents a decline, whereas Act I is an upbeat and needs sunlight and, within it, privacy.

Spas Wenkoff sang a noble, not ideally focused, Tristan. Roberta Knott's bold Isolde, more suburban than heroic in manner, Hanna Schwärzle was a greatly endearing Brangäne, Ulrik Cold something like the perfect Marke, strong and dark of voice, greatly relishing his words. Gerd Fehldorf offered a muscular Kurwenal, much younger than his master. Hans-Joachim Klemm was the cross-referenced critic.

But it is a false link.

Tristan und Isolde is about

horrible day and desirable night. The second act takes place at night, according to the first and third in barefoot daylight, though night falls as Tristan dies in Act III. Friedlrich unsensitively set all three acts in the dark, stupid in the first act ("Bläue Schreie")

and the second in the dark, stupid in the second act ("O, diese Sonne"). Yet the third act made a strong effect, perhaps because it represents a decline, whereas Act I is an upbeat and needs sunlight and, within it, privacy.

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FESTIVALS OF THE YEAR: MUSIC 3

on—Proms

leads enchantment, but little in the case of Crumb's *Star-Child*, apocalyptic farago of mad metaphysics hailed York a couple of years ago as momentous came on and lured to the Albert Hall and 1979 Proms off a bit as far as new music concerned. The excuse, I lay in the interest ed here by Crumb's smaller but in writing for large orchestra forces he say the least, spread his rather thin, and that to have been apparent the need for massed ensembles in all corners to rate the fact.

ly the next new import from the finer pen of Crumb's present BBC Symphony Orchestra in the British of his *Les Espaces du* and next night, the Sinfonia in *Paroles* both surreal dreamscapes French poetic texts. *Les* was written for Dietrich Dieskau but sung here Shirley-Quirk, whose serenity came not giving some substance mbling lines of Desnos. de the orchestra music its own patterns of adages until a paroxysm end brought voice and violently together. As with Lutoslawski, this neat, well-fashioned tent and fluid.

ere in the series one effect a tendency to the backwaters rather in Prom seasons a task to breast the tide gards endeavour. Hence one of the recent cellos by the prolific and Danish composer Olmboe, a sort of and tidy construction a language of hard-motivic working now tired. Hence too the of a relatively neoclassical piece by Louis Zimmermann, his *Uccello*, which proved a thing of brilliant in the hands of Heinz And hence the pro of the third sym Joseph Tal, doyen of imposers, whose music quarter-hour of rich, and varied colours Israel Philharmonic bin Mehta.

ore adventurous new year came almost all from British composers, and also the more curious. Among the latter must be counted David Woodbridge's Five Italian Songs, which provided Heather Harper with a vocal line gloriously apt to her BBC players under Michael Gieben some practice in most of the orchestral styles of this century from Richard Strauss to Boulez.

Also backward-looking, though more a work of synthesis than of magpie eclecticism, was Nicholas Maw's *Le vita-natura*, which was again a set of five Italian songs, but offering Renaissance love lyrics in place of Woodbridge's Ungaretti. Phyllis Bryn-Jones was the ecstatic and loving voice of a part ranging through the voluptuous territory of Strange and Bell accompanied by chamber music of Ravelian precision and grace. Maw's work was part of an all-British evening with the Nash Ensemble at the Round House (is there really nowhere else for these outings?) which also included the premiere of Anthony Payne's *The Stones and Lonely Places*. Sing a heroically ascetic tone poem in features of the northern landscape.

Payne's slow, weighty urgings contrasted markedly with the kaleidoscopic brilliance and swift force of Oliver Knussen's third symphony, performed a few days later by again, the BBC Symphony Orchestra, this time under Michael Tilson Thomas. Yet this characteristic piece seems to have cost the composer a good deal of effort: the middle movement was dropped at the last stage, and we were left with a strange diptych, beginning with a rust of multifarious ideas, ending in a suspension of still chords. Perhaps the form needs further thought, but certainly Knussen has proved both his formidable powers of invention and his capricious sense of musical community.

Even so, the new work which lodged itself most firmly in my mind was Harrison Birtwistle's *Agnes*, which was introduced at the first of two concerts by Boulez's new Paris group, the Ensemble InterContemporain. With Boulez restricting himself to the programme of nineteenth-century symphonies—which are, or ought to be, standard repertoire in the event of the Scottish National, and Sir Alexander Gibson gave a rousing account of the fourth, the more welcome after much routine playing of the orchestra nearer home, and the fifth disappeared altogether for lack of rehearsal time.

Emil Gilels played the Grieg piano concerto (an "occasional

with equal intensity. They excelled again in the overt romanticism of the second suite from Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* in a programme also including Mendelssohn's *Midsummer Night's Dream* overture and Elgar's *Faustus* (the last questionably hard-driven).

The other discovery for many a younger visitor could well have proved Liszt's *Piano XIII*, once a favourite of Sir Thomas Beecham. This work could also be described as vacillating in so far as the idioms goes, with sections of ravishing operatic lyricism alongside others of sterner cut, yet somehow held together by an all-pervasive motto—its metamorphoses serving as reminder of Liszt's great personal contribution to the evolution of musical form. Daring chromaticism sometimes taxed the soloist, Robert Ferguson, but the Festival Chorus and City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra were much in the spirit of the work under John Eliot Gardiner, as they were again in the totally different Byzantine austerity of Stravinsky's *Symphony of Psalms*. Town Hall acoustics militated against the central fugal textures of this work, but the last movement, and notably its close, were hypnotically enough done to make you believe in *Paradise*, as Professor Ian Kemp promised might happen in his programme-note.

The programme also included Ravel's G major concerto, with Michel Dalberto, winner of the 1978 Leeds Piano Competition, as soloist. Anyone then accusing him of reticence to be or not to be' illations relieved by of the van Ophelia. Northern Symphony brooded and raged Alexander Gibson

and uninvited. A concert shared by the organist Simon Wright and the newly-formed Birmingham Chamber Orchestra in support under John Aldis, Liszt's organ variations (No 12) with his organ on the bass of its opening chorus. Despite Simon Wright's expansively colourful playing (as again in Liszt's *Prelude* and *Fugue* on BACH), the later organ adaptation proved no match for Liszt's original piano version of these variations. The concert ended with another Bach canonic fugue in *Liszt's* transcription. *Ich hatte viel Bekümmernis* (No 21), from which the soaring solo singing of Felicity Palmer (alongside Alfreda Hodgson, John Elvers and Neil Howlett) is likely to linger longest in the memory.

If for some festival-goers this programme was dangerously musico-logical, there was first-class entertainment earlier that day at the Clothworkers' Centre Hall, when the north-based pianist Keith Swallow (why does he never fly south?) delighted us with his effervescent dexterity in a recital of rarely-heard, light-hearted and sometimes tongue-in-cheek miniatures by Dussek, Rossini (whose deliciously inconsequential "Un Rêve" proved a best-seller), Debussy, Satie, Milhaud and Poulenc—as well as Liszt in the rôle of virtuoso transcriber of Chopin, Schumann and Rossini. Too many notes in these last, perhaps, yet what splendid trail-blazing in pre-gramophone and pre-radio days.—J.O.C.

London and elsewhere—English Bach

The English Bach Festival spent most of its energy this year in the baroque era, and especially on French music, drama and dance. It however remains attentive to the twentieth century: there was a commemorative programme of works by Skalkottas and a newly commissioned piece by Nigel Osborne. The musical activities were divided not only between London and Oxford but also Versailles and even Athens—to which, perhaps a bit eccentrically, the Hippolyte et Aricie production was taken.

I missed that event, but heard much other music by Rameau and his compatriots. And I did hear *Hippolyte* at Covent Garden, a much altered revival of the 1978 production. Much improved, too, in many respects: the cast followed made better sense, and Sir Charles Mackerras's highly professional direction drew better disciplined, better tuned playing from the orchestra of baroque instruments. Among the cast Neil Howlett shone as Theseus; but Lynda Russell's Ariane, if sensitive, sounded pallid in so big a house, and neither Carolyn Watkinson (Phaedra) nor Ian Caley (Hippolytus) showed quite the dramatic vitality they did last year—this was perhaps partly

due to the abandonment of last year's attempt at authentic gesture, which had so much animated the performance, in consequence, somewhat cool. The costumes and the dance looked well, and the set (borrowed from *Rose's Ball*) served admirably; but I hope before long we can look to Rameau revivals authentic on still more planes.

Another revival, this time at the Versailles royal opera, was of Rameau's one-act *Pygmalion*, beautifully staged, with Michael Goldthorpe singing the title role at the Queen Elizabeth Hall of Zarzuela, a long and demanding opera that needed careful preparation; even with heavy cuts it lasted until 11 pm, and the EBF Baroque Orchestra seemed to find Andrew Parrott's direction insufficiently explicit. Numerous late changes in the cast further bedevilled matters, but the originality and the vigour of the music came through, and there were some strong performances, notably from Felicity Palmer, Michael Rippon, Anne-Marie Rodde and Michael Goldthorpe.

The team of dancers trained in period style by Belinda Quirey or Michael Holmes took part in most of these items, showing, in eighteenth-century costumes of considerable beauty and elaboration, a stylish appreciation of French courtly dance. They took part in a performance at the Whitehall Banqueting House of Rebel's suite *Les élémens*, in Händel's *Water Music*—where I particularly relished the way their more direct geometry happily paralleled the musical idiom, and in programmes of chamber music by Couperin, sensitively led by Stephen Preston's flautist Paul Rolland. All Souls Coordinating Library at Oxford and the Salle d'Hercule at Versailles. The ensemble's music also included a newly recovered sonata by Charpentier, who was further represented by his beautiful *Assumpta est Maria* at St Peter's Square, and in the royal chapel at Versailles, under the careful and sympathetic direction of Mr Parrott.

A veritable feast of the French baroque, this, and, done with authentic instruments, its conventions of articulation and rhythmic and melodic phraseology, a life and a meaning that often prove elusive. The added dance too may offer hints towards our understanding of this idiom, even though its addition—in for example the Water Music or a Couperin trio sonata, music never intended for dancing—may impose constraints upon the interpreters.

On a lovely afternoon in the gardens of Versailles, in the company of Vassilis, the hundredth anniversary of the birth of its founder and generous financial backer, Sir Barry Jackson, who is known to have conceived it while walking with Bernard Shaw on the Malvern hills. A commemorative plaque was unveiled at the Winter Gardens by Prince Charles, who also attended one of the concerts and visited the centenary exhibition, "Barry Jackson and Friends", in the festival theatre's crypt. The atmosphere of those



Elliott Carter—an intense, profound symphony

but scarcely a risk). Vagn Holmboe was heard in his cello concerto. Most notably, Sibelius's *Kullervo* symphony had been given to the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Gennadi Rozhdestvensky, with the London Voices fighting bravely for command of Finnish, emerged as a prolonged act of piety. *Kullervo* contains a bleakness of invention as well as of mood. The composer was justified, if only in his reservations about a work he withdrew after its premiere.

All four of Rozhdestvensky's concertos with his own orchestra were in their various ways provocative. His *Rite of Spring* challenged Stravinsky's assertion that "a piece of mine can suggest almost anything but wrong or uncertain tempo". His reading of Rachmaninov's first symphony was a travesty, ignoring the scholarship that has gone into the 1977 Soviet edition. The symphony was heavily cut, and souped reorchestrated: the climax of the slow movement, unique in Rachmaninov's *Fourth* for its restraint and indeed nobility, was adorned with glissandi and tubular bells, making it sound like Hollywood sound. It is hard to imagine such a breach of taste from even Becham or Stokowski at their most wilful.

If the BBC orchestra was involved in one of the season's

worst moments, it also played in one of the best. Elliott Carter's *A Symphony of Three Orchestras*, conducted by David Atherton, gripped the imagination and gaps in still. This intensely profound and complex score was given a thoroughly musical, if not coldly accurate, performance. Part of the inspiration stems from Hart Crane's poem *The Bridge*: the image of the line "the seagull's wings shall dip and pivot him" was imbued with life by the beautiful playing of a guest principal trumpet, John Wallace of the Philharmonia Orchestra. His opening solo, which verges on the impossible, was made to sound simply fluent.

James Loughran, who conducted in five concerts (more than anyone else) found little magic in Beethoven's ninth symphony on the penultimate night of Mahler's third, the following evening. However, the Philharmonic, to the attractiveness of Britain's neglected ballets, score *The Prince of the Pagodas*, Michael Tilster conducting his own selection of the music. The suite still runs just over an hour, and might well gain wider acceptance from further curtain, especially in the early evening.

Nothing in the season was more fun than Elgar Howarth's arrangement of Mussorgsky's

and reel.—C.F.

Pictures from an Exhibition given by the Philip Jones Brass Ensemble. A virtuoso showpiece only gained from following a depressingly drab performance by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, also conducted by Harrison Birtwistle's *The Triumph of Time*. Nothing was more intriguing than the music and dancing of the Sasono Muja Gamelan Ensemble. A virtuoso showpiece only gained from following a depressingly drab performance by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, also conducted by Harrison Birtwistle's *The Triumph of Time*.

The Israeli Philharmonic and Zubin Mehta were received with predictable ecstasy in Mahler's sixth symphony, yet the orchestra sounded surprisingly uneven in accomplishment to those who know it from recent recordings with Leonard Bernstein: warm strings, idiosyncratic wind, good brass led by a superb trumpeter in the American-trained Glenn Fischthal, feeble percussion. If comparisons are to be made among the major visitors, it was not in total superior to the Scottish National. Of our own domestic orchestras, the Philharmonia, surely the most improved over the past couple of years, brought appropriately bright colour to Paderewski's first symphony. It was a special pleasure to find Riccardo Muti advancing so far into the present.

Composers of the stature of Boulez, Henze and Stockhausen were notable only for their absence from the programmes. There was enough modern music to frighten the faint-hearted, however, and this, combined with a necessary sharp rise in ticket prices, led to smaller audiences than usual—a fact omitted from Loughran's speech on the last night. But his Scottish humour almost did bring the house down, and at the end it was not entirely clear which really was the land of hope and glory. In spite of the conductor's warning about the danger of the orchestra observing the traditional handclaps, *Aud Lang Spie* appeared to put the trombone section in a tangle; and Cedric Thorpe Davie offered an amusing novelty in his *Divisions* on a tune by Dr Arne, wherein a very English sort of theme (from *Thomas and Sally*) is wryly devolved to strathspey and reel.—C.F.

FESTIVALS IN BRITAIN
a diary for 1980

March	15-29 : Camden (London)
May	September : Chichester 1-10 : English Bach (London) 3-17 : Brighton 10-October 5 : Pitlochry 19-June 8 : Malvern 22-June 1 : Perth 23-June 8 : Bath 27-August 11 : Glyndebourne
June	6-22 : Aldeburgh 6-30 : York 7-17 : Llandaff 14-21 : Portsmouth 14-29 : Greenwich
July	7-18 : City of London 9-23 : Manchester 18-September 15 : Promenade Concerts (London) 24-27 : Southern Cathedrals (Chichester) 25-August 2 : King's Lynn 31-August 13 : Harrogate
August	16-23 : Three Choirs (Gloucester) 17-September 6 : Edinburgh
September	13-October 4 : Windsor
October	6-25 : Swansea
November	28-December 13 : Cardiff

sance of Elgar's Englishness, sharing the composer's own economy of gesture on the rostrum, yet with the emphasis on the first of the two words. It was a passionately committed interpretation, rich in detailed nuance, flexible, marvellously attentive to refinements of orchestral colour, and at the same time finely integrated within its broad scope. Catching the spark, the RPO played like heroes, with precision to match their fire.—J.O.C.

Montepulciano

Hans Werner Henze's "international workshop of the arts" at Montepulciano, in the hills of central Italy, is primarily about communication and cooperation. A town which used to live only in the past is confronted each summer by a group of students and young professionals, perhaps half of them from Britain, whose rewards are measured in experience and enjoyment. Henze himself is much in evidence, as conductor, producer, teacher, inspirer, though as composer modestly less than some might wish.

This year's festival was marred by programme changes and by the fact that the big events—the *spettacoli*—had artfully shorn of the small. The radiant exception was the closing performance of Monteverdi's *Vespers* of 1610, and indeed the composer cast his benevolent shade across the end of a final week which had started unpromisingly. Jürgen Jürgens's edition, as conducted by the American Dennis Russell Davies, seemed a fairly practicable compromise. The London Chamber Choir, whether in *tutti* or as soloists, fell most easily upon the ear. The orchestral trumpets, echoing one another across the cavernous church of S Biagio, made such a sound as we should all hope will greet us one day.

The biggest disappointment was the non-appearance of Julian Bream, who was ill. Originally he was going to play Henze's large-scale guitar sonata *Royal Winter Music* and to give the world premiere of *Royal Winter Music II*. First he postponed the premiere, because he did not have time to learn what was to be a formidable piece. Then, a few days notice, he called off altogether, resounding with averted glance. One of Bream's two recitals was replaced by the West German violinist Jenny Abel, who played solo sonatas by Bach (No 1 in G minor), Bartók and Henze with an awesome combination of stamina, technique and range of tone and dynamic. The Henze, which was written for per, contains a number of references to Monteverdi's

modernism, and although it seemed to be enjoyed by those who do not find the music intrinsically cheap and nasty.

Macheath was reprieved not at the eleventh hour but at the twelfth, the performance ending some while after midnight—C.F.

The most improbable sight was of Henze conducting one of four bands playing music by Rossini, Bellini et al in an extravaganza under the stars and under the roof of the *pietra* under the most obviously modern music, and not the least derivative, was *L'Impératrice di Terranova*, a "pantomime" based on Wedekind by Henze's pupil Hennig Brauel. This, like most of the bigger productions, happened in a circus tent on the football pitch. *Fine del Mondo*, a semi-musical play by a local composer whose obscurity should not be tarnished, was still being rehearsed five minutes before the scheduled kick-off time. Menacingly advertised on banners around the streets, it turned out to be a send-up of all things sacred, including the local *vino nobile*. Earlier performances had been given by the Grimethorpe Colliery Band, but now Fitz-Gerald conducted a scratch group.

The most insoluble problem was to achieve liaison between musicians and actors, as Latham-Koenig also found with Weill's *Threepenny Opera*. Nowadays the Weill is not at all unfamiliar in Italy, so Henze, a proven man of the theatre, took a calculated risk in producing it as a single act lasting well over two hours. A very few works, including his large-scale guitar sonata *Royal Winter Music*, had been given by the Grimethorpe Colliery Band, but now Fitz-Gerald conducted

—complete with custard pie—to settle the score, though it seemed to be enjoyed by those who do not find the music intrinsically cheap and nasty.

Macheath was reprieved not at the eleventh hour but at the twelfth, the performance ending some while after midnight—C.F.

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FESTIVALS OF THE YEAR: MUSIC 4

Salzburg

Karl Böhm now conducts most of his Salzburg Festival operas in the small Festspielhaus. And this could be seen as an in-built advantage. While Karajan mounts his spectacles with mixed success in the large theatre — this summer's new *Aida* engendered enthusiasm from the audience and wrath from the visiting German critics in just about equal quantities — Böhm has turned the much more manageable house next door into almost a private and personal kingdom.

The new *Ariadne auf Naxos* there might also be considered Böhm's private and personal opera. It was the first Strauss stage work he conducted and indeed the first opera on which he was engaged when he went to Graz as a répétiteur well over 60 years ago. The previous Salzburg *Ariadne*, in this same theatre and again in the charge of Böhm, in 1964 set the standards for many years to come.

No surprise, then, that Böhm walked into the pit on the opening night to the ovation that greets a revered and beloved monarch. By the end of the evening the ovation had doubled and redoubled: Böhm had rewarded his subjects with a quality of orchestral playing that made Salzburg's Festival prizes look almost modest. The Vienna Philharmonic seemed like a group of virtuosi sewn together by a master weaver, producing at neither house sound that was lush and mordant, sumptuous and witty by turns.

Böhm, who celebrated his eighty-fifth birthday during the festival, was not the only hero of the evening. Dieter Dorn, who produced *Ariadne*, looks not much more than a third Böhm's age. He had only directed one opera before, *Entführung* in Vienna earlier in the year, and that had won him neither friends nor admirers. If that was a false Dorn then here was a new Dorn.

Hofmannsthal's study of what makes the theatre tick over was updated from its usual baroque setting to the time of composition, 1911-16. Frills, sashes and tights were banished to be replaced by the everyday clothes of the singers and clowns who have arrived to entertain the rich and poor in Vienna. In the Prologue Dorn even allows him to be glimpsed briefly, accompanied by two haughty ladies through the doors of the servants' quarters. That, of course, is where the visiting artists are housed, changing amidst the brooms and brushes, storerooms and

crockery cabinets of Jürgen Rose's timbered set.

Rose's frame for the opera itself, deceptively simple and probably exceedingly expensive to build, is a cream ballroom with chandeliers — something after the style of Act II for his Munich *Rosenkavalier* — which has been hastily converted into a theatre. Bacchus makes his entrance through the far doors amidst billowing aquamarine drapes representing the Aegean and eventually takes off his Ariadne into a blue, blue night made of similar material. We, the audience of the Kleines Festspielhaus, have much the same vantage point as the guests ushered in by Hofmannsthal's Haushofmeister (deliciously punctilious performance by Peter Matic).

The solutions given by Dorn and Rose to the problems posed by *Ariadne* are ingenious, clean-cut and precise. Updating the setting casts a spotlight on the struggle Hofmannsthal and Strauss went through to reach an artistic compromise, both between themselves and with those who worked with them.

The only risk is that *Ariadne* becomes an *opera à clef*. The Composer, in Trudeliese Schmidt's trim and volatile person, looks almost like a young Alban Berg, beset with problems goaded on by aspirations and then suddenly diverted for a moment by a pretty face or a neat ankle. Miss Schmidt has been heard at both Covent Garden and Glyndebourne, but the appearance at neither house suggests that she could be a Composer of such quality, impetuous and uninhibited yet secure and warm in Strauss's vocal line. Overnight she put in her claim to be the world's leading Composer as Jurina did, in a totally different style, here 15 years ago.

Edita Gruberova is already established as the Zerbinieta of the late 1970s — her hundredth appearance in the part came during Salzburg. She bounces about the stage, parabolically, exuding good humour wherever she goes; no wonder Ariadne disappears behind her rock in despair at such jollity after the start of "Grossmächtige Prinzessin". Gruberova positively delights in the coloratura acrobatics of this showpiece like a high-wire artist doing a series of pirouettes in a Big Top. Hildegard Behrens, in a smattering of Grecian black, completes a marvellous trio of ladies vanishing in her distress ("Es gibt ein Reich") and letting her voice soar over the orchestra when Strauss unleashes his flood of sound at the end.

Strauss never allowed his



Ariadne (Hildegard Behrens) interrupted by Zerbinetta (Edita Gruberova) and her troupe

men such opportunities, and perhaps that is why the world is short of Bacchuses. James King is no more than moderate in the role, straining hard for the grand manner but letting too many sour notes get in the way. Walter Berry's Music Teacher by contrast is a masterpiece of observation, a kindly yet motheaten figure who lost his altruism long ago. It was also a delight to see the Dancing Master (Eberhard Buchner) for once played as a suave and

authoritative figure instead of a camp lackey.

The quality of this *Ariadne*, as fine a performance as we are likely to see for many years, is no more than moderate in the role, straining hard for the grand manner but letting too many sour notes get in the way. Walter Berry's Music Teacher by contrast is a masterpiece of observation, a kindly yet motheaten figure who lost his altruism long ago. It was also a delight to see the Dancing Master (Eberhard Buchner) for once played as a suave and

which is not exactly thin on the ground, was supplemented by a Salzburg choir as well as the gentlemen of the Sofia Opera. Unseen brass bands lurked in the wings and sounded as though they were amplified. Amneris's boudoir had a swimming pool complete with nude nymphs.

Karajan was in no mood to disappoint those who expected this *Aida* to be twice as large as life and six times as grand. The Vienna State Opera Chorus,

which preceded the start of

the festival took its toll of the cast. Finally Karina Ricciarelli moved in from Verona to "observe" the last rehearsals. But the doubters were disarmed: eventually Freni and Carreras won the day and it was the singers more often associated with *Aida* who were below their best.

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Yves Carreras and his regular

designer, Günther Schneider-

Siemens, have proved before

now that the only way to play

this mighty stage is to make it

mighty still. Egypt was turned

into a vast state in which the

inhabitants were pygmies dwarfed

by the sphinxes and temples

they had created. The triumphal arch was flanked by two pyramids with the chorus literally roped on lest vertigo should

overtake them — on the first

night it did, in one case. The

most evocative of the sets was

for the third act, a vista of the

Nile winding its way down from

Egypt to the sea. The

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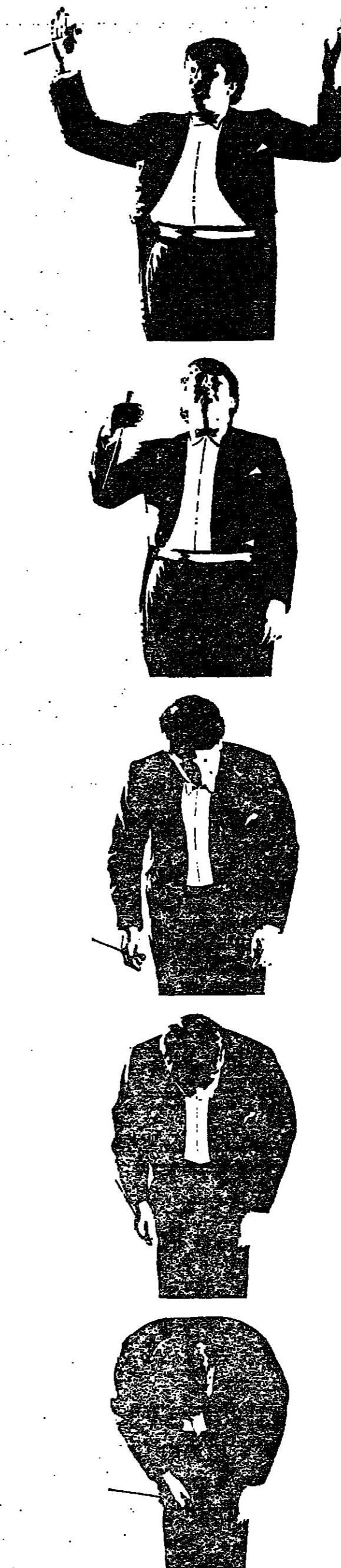
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now that the only way to play

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Jackie L.S.



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FESTIVALS OF THE YEAR: ART IN THE MAJOR CENTRES

Berlin

Opening a show of the Berlinische Galerie's holdings of Berlin art since 1950, the gallery's director remarked that this particular date in the middle of July had been chosen because it was the only date they could find in the whole year which did not have at least one festival or festive event scheduled. It was a joke, of course, but not far wide of the mark. Possibly because West Berlin is still self-conscious about finding a *raison d'être* apart from the purely political, cultural and artistic activities are deliberately attracted in a series of festivals and special events which succeed one another month in, month out, so that whenever you go there is something happening.

Not only that, but the scene is constantly changing, so that completely different things are going on between, say, the end of July and the beginning of September, the two occasions this summer when I found myself in Berlin. The first time two big shows were a wonderful (if not very deep) Max Ernst retrospective at the Nationalgalerie and a large and not very readily definable exhibition called *Berlin und die Antike* in the Charlottenburg.

At least with Max Ernst you know where you are. He established early in the 1920s his repertoire of subjects and stylistic approaches: the moon landscapes, the dream (or sometimes nightmare) animals, the scenes of almost everyday life with a few surrealistic dislocations, the masterly collages of Victorian steel-engravings and so on. The effect might be taken in large doses monotonous. But that proved to be from the case. Ernst responds remarkably to being seen through large numbers of works presented chronologically. The development is rigorously consistent, yet as responsive to our wish to see the changing circumstances of art and the world: a film enthusiast friend with whom I saw the show immediately got the point of the "saturated Technicolor" palette. Ernst used in the 1940s, for instance, seeing Ernst as belonging willingly to the same world as *Fantasia* and *Maria Montez*. The familiar motifs are always the same, but always new—something only a really great painter can achieve.

Berlin's relations with antiquity are of all sorts and kinds, and the show arranged by the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut stoned on none of them, whether it were Berlin stage-designers' work on classical drama, Berlin archeologists digging up the ancient world, the Greek Revival in Berlin architecture, the scientific problems of restoration and conservation, classical subject-matter in Berlin painting, Parables a series of super-



Berlin und die Antike: the Brandenburg gate in course of post-war reconstruction

realistic self-portraits, conventionally painted, with somewhat Dadaist environments, rather as if Norman Rockwell had mated with Kurt Schwitters.

In September it was the turn of Howard Kanovitz, this time for a more retrospective, going back to his beginning as an abstract expressionist, through some wonderfully mordant sections of America in the 1960s, out to an extraordinarily detailed photo-realism and then back in the most recent works to an unmistakably "painterly" approach. It is funny how, not so long ago, the real talents of impenetrable modernists (Picasso, say) would be gauged by the ability they showed to draw realistically. By the same test Cuno Amiet at the Brücke Museum emerges with flying colours.

A Swiss who knew Van Gogh and Gauguin and later was im-

mediate with the painters of die

Brücke, he was painting fully fledged abstracts (and very good ones too) by 1904, and had a dazzling sense of colour and composition which puts many better known painters to shame. Why he is not more familiar remains a mystery—perhaps it is partly because his psychedelic landscapes and boldly abstracted figure compositions do not lend themselves to reproduction, least of all in black and white, but really have to be seen in the original. At least this show offers rare opportunity of seeing a lot together and revising one's estimation of Amiet a long way up in the hierarchy of twentieth-century art.

There is always much more around, but the most striking recent show was probably *Arbeit und Alltag* at the Kunsthalle. Like most of these shows at this gallery, it had a strong political tone, concerning it-

self with the proletarian theme in Belgian art from 1830 to 1914. This made for rather gloom viewing, enlivened occasionally by such fancies as the woman in Wiertz's *Hunger* stowing her dead baby's leg. But little by little the picture was put together artistically as well as politically, and one could not see the exhibition without having a much clearer idea of where Van Gogh came from, what was the background of that Verhaeren and Maeterlinck partially reflected, partially reacted against. Also, some painters little known outside Belgium, such as Eugène Laermans and Georges Le Brun, are impressive in their own right. Though many Berliners complain about the necessity of their culture like their milk, if the process results in so many exponents there seems little real cause for complaint.

First, in the pre-Revolutionary era, there are the bold, colourful and sophisticated decorative effects of the First Russian Ballet Period, then the challenging spit-rope graphics, the iconoclastic typographical layouts, the free and gleeful play of forms and colours across canvases (or, with Malevich's classic works, the magical suppression of apparent colour and form), the demented architectural projects of newly liberated architects trying their strength.

Apart from anything else, it is all very jolly. Blake might have had these artists specifically in mind when he said "Exuberance is Beauty". One might expect a show key sections of which are largely non-representational, to be solemn and heavy-going, but not a bit of it. It is only comforting that these works, though so long disapproved of, still exist in the major public collections in Russia, ready to be dusted off and displayed; but then the Russians never throw anything away. The show works; it must be said, more effectively as a display of Rus-

Paris

The big centre of excitement in the Paris art world during the summer was the Centre Georges Pompidou. This was understandable, and correct, from many points of view. To begin with, the sheer magnitude of the show, filling the whole of the large fifth-floor exhibition space and then some with works which for the most part have not been seen in public for nearly 50 years and have never been seen in the West at all. Then the pre-sold aspect of the thing: as the third part of the giant triptych of shows staged at Beaubourg over the last three years exploring cultural relations between America and France, Germany and France; and now Russia and France; it had built up enormous expectations just on the strength of the previous two. And the political implications of the show, suggesting perhaps that the long-awaited official re-evaluation of the experimental arts of early Revolutionary Russia may finally be taking place, have provoked an enormous amount of comment in France, where the politics of art are almost as vital an issue as the act of politics.

There was more Russian flavour at the Bibliothèque Nationale, where the big summer exhibition was devoted to marking the fiftieth anniversary of Diaghilev's death with a display of hundreds of costume and set designs, books and documents and memorabilia of all kinds. A lot less dramatically laid out than our own famous Diaghilev show of—heavens!—more than 25 years ago, it still summons up vividly the first excitement of the Russian baller's impact on the west: one can almost catch a faint whiff of Mitsukuri drifting through the stately halls.

And then there were the more specialized shows. The Petit Palais celebrated the beginning of its definitive collection-catalogue with a show of its holding of *Pavés de Chavannes* drawings and sketches, which created a curiously erotic impression of this apparently very chaste painter, owing to his habit of sketching adults fully clad complete with nude models first. The Musée des Arts Décoratifs had a real collector's item in the shape of a tribute to the eccentric genius of Hector Horace. Who? Well, Horace was a French architect (1801-1872) who lived for some years in England and hardly built anything, but left behind the most grandiose schemes for glassing in the major boulevards, turning the whole of Trafalgar Square into a sort of Crystal Palace of art and industry and building monuments relative to which the Statue of Liberty would be but a child's toy.

Obviously he lived and worked through the period of the Grand Palais's show *L'Art en France sous le Second Empire*, but he must have been much too wild and weird to rate according to the solid, bourgeois taste which predominated then. The exhibition was admirably comprehensive and superbly documented but not finally very appealing. The stiffness became so oppressive, the religion, religiosity, the vision of nature blotted out, the romantic medievalism all too redolent of Madame Tussaud's. All the same, it is useful to know these things, and see the whole picture put together. And then there is the counter-culture represented by the beginning of Impressionism, the Symbolists like Moreau and *Pavés de Chavannes*, and the then more approachable paintings of Courbet, Miller, Delacroix, Corot, Daumier and others to show that there was vitality in plenty there, if not all of it too suitable for presentation at Court.

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Apollon Musagete (Stravinsky)—Night Piece (Berg)—The Unicorn, The Gorgon and The Manicore (Menotti)—Aurora's Wedding (Tchaikovsky)—Feder (Hindemith)—Les Noces (Stravinsky)—Orpheus (Henze)—Eugene Onegin (Tchaikovsky)—Orfeo (Ricciarelli)—Sirene (Stockhausen)

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G. Ricciarelli—G. Vishevskaya—B. Nilsson/M. Perlman—
S. Richter—A. Brandt

Orchestra, Chorus and Ballet of the Maggio Musicale Florentino

The Vikings are coming

On February 14th 1980 The Vikings Exhibition will open at the British Museum and run for five months until July 20th. The exhibition gives a glimpse into the life of the Vikings who transformed the political and economic map of Europe a thousand years ago. To tell the story of the Vikings about 500 items will be assembled from over 40 institutions in nine countries.

The exhibition is sponsored by Times Newspapers Ltd in association with SAS Scandinavian Airlines and supported by a grant from the Cultural Fund of the Nordic Council. To mark the opening on February 14th The Times will be publishing a Special Report on The Vikings. The report will be looking at the modern Vikings as well as their famous ancestors.

This report could provide your company with an excellent advertising opportunity.

Not only will the report appear in The Times but a miniature reprint of the Special Report will be available for private evening of the exhibition.

For further information about advertising in this report please contact:

Mary Robson,
The Times, P.O. Box 7,
New Printing House Square,
Gray's Inn Road,
London WC1X 8EZ
01-837 1234 Ext. 7398

For details of private viewings please contact:

Vikings Exhibition Booking Office,
c/o Carlton Cleeve Ltd.,
13 New Quebec Street,
London W1H 7DD
01-723 1634

Reviews by John Russell Taylor



New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

SUMPTION OF SOVEREIGNTY

Carrington has now confirmed that the British Government to have full juridical sovereignty over Zimbabwe-Rhodesia with or it a ceasefire. He has done he can to leave the way to the Patriotic Front to accept the ceasefire or runs agreed with the Salis delegation, subject to last modifications, in the next days. That time is short if Governor is to go out with a ceasefire signed. But even if 'ont maintains its "we do yes, but we have not said more beyond the day on the British Governor takes his functions, it could in call the ceasefire up to the which nominations close. robability is that however ackingly Mr Mugabe and come play Lord Carrington can then tell the black and no one else could—was, and is will be theirs. the implications of Lord's decision to proceed ie constitutional and the arrangements so far at Lancaster House are 'ave and should be underly, se, Britain never gave up e sovereignty over Rhodesia", but in a de facto illegal regime only exercised it; hence a rebellion could claim, if sly, that it was a legitimate putting down a (as well as racialist) It could be at once

revolutionary and counter-revolutionary, and the confusions and cross-currents of the situation have given its propagandists and supporters great scope. In so far as sanctions are intended to reverse the usurped independence of the Smith regime—and by precedent its successor however different in hue—Britain is indeed in *de facto* collaboration with the guerrillas.

The moment a British Governor takes charge with absolute legislative and executive powers under the Southern Rhodesia Act and yesterday's Order in Council, all this changes. Things become clear-cut. The intention is to provide a temporary protectorate or interregnum to hold the fighters apart and allow the ballot to decide the issue; but the legal effect is that whatever happens become Britain's direct responsibility, as direct as in

the case of the Muzorewa government as it was before Lusaka. Britain's ill-wishers would call Britain's good faith in question.

There are other consequences, too, in the surrounding countries and in the internationalization of the struggle. It would seem that the die was cast at Lusaka and Britain must stand the hazard. Britain is pledged to carry out the Lusaka brief, if not with the Patriotic Front's collaboration, then despite the Patriotic Front's veto. For that the Commonwealth owes Britain full support. But let no one suppose this undertaking is to be a sideshow any more than are the issues in Ireland; the costs will be great, the ramifications incalculable at this stage.

TRAL GRIP ON LOCAL FUNDING

and punts on municipal bonds may be provided council for hire, a statute provides. But the council not screw whatever charge it likes out of it: Whitehall has to control by law fixing the price, invariable constraint upon autonomy, together with others, will be abolished Bill published yesterday it will be trusted to let out for any fee that is able" (a pregnant worders). Many of the 300 assessments are equally but all represent a saving tape, and some would only increase the ability councils to make their own

strength of this, the tent claims that the Bill's is to reduce central its overall effect, however to increase them suby. The piececemeals of the Poisons Rules Breeding of Dogs Act so on, are insignificant the new restrictions on of councils to raise money as they see fit, on capital spending, tight, will be made still and the government will first time take powers to individual councils overall spending exceeds of that the government's of.

EN THE CUPBOARD IS BARE

Steel's decision to offer employees wage increases of ent, at a time when it is another 50,000 reduction labour force, could well be the kind of national hat seems to have been in the coalfields. Dr Grieves, the corporation's director for personnel policy, told the steel-leaders on Monday that organization was "bust". a background of half-sizes totalling £145m, and ability of worse to come losing six months of the tion's year, he was clearly more than speaking the This being so, it is difficult how British Steel can even an offer of 2 per cent it may well have made a mistake in pitching its this way.

corporation has indicated per cent on its wage bill cost it £24m. This is more than it can afford, terms of hard cash in the pay packets of its sees it is indeed a derisory It is understandable that its leaders have reacted they are, after all, being

asked to cooperate in further heavy redundancies, and they find it hard to understand why British miners, who are supplying them with high-cost coking coal, seem likely to be awarded 20 per cent or more while they have to make do with two.

But to understand the steel workers' reaction is not to advocate the payment of a larger sum round. It is simply to emphasize that the policy the corporation should have pursued was to say that since the cupboard is bare, there would be no overall payment: any increases awarded would be a direct consequence only of agreements guaranteeing higher productivity in individual plants. Such a line might have been seen as realistic, rather than "insulting", and it would have been in accord with the new trend that seems, at least, to be emerging in pay settlements.

Since the new government took office, it has been feared that rising living costs would inevitably be followed by rapidly escalating wage settlements. In fact, it seems possible that earnings are now beginning to decelerate, as unemployment gains speed. A settlement by the miners in the region of 20 per cent towards the

end of this week could prove to be the high water mark in the current round.

The trend towards more realistic settlements appears to be borne out by evidence accumulated by the Confederation of Industry's "database". It suggests that while there have indeed been agreements to pay more than 20 per cent since the beginning of August, there have also been settlements as low as 5.5 per cent. In addition, wage negotiations appear to have been concluded more speedily than in previous years. Wages council awards are said to have ranged from 9.1 per cent to 27.3 per cent.

Given the Government's dedication to free collective bargaining, such variations from modest to high payments were to be expected: some companies are better placed to meet extravagant demands than others. But if the apparent overall downward trend is maintained and consolidated, ministers may well congratulate themselves on at last getting their message across—that there can be no real and lasting improvement in living standards without higher productivity.

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sponse to Iran

Mr T. E. Rogers
would withhold the admira- vated by the President of College (November 30) for the bearing of the Americans' sore resting by Iranian Nor, apart from the weight r presence and influence they are singled out from countries including ours who with the Shah's excesses as his achievements which else forced on the west- of a traditionalist Islamic 100 last.

America and her friends themselves if they forget years' excessive US support at the expense of Palestina and territorial rights to a bitter harvest of Islamic which has given a special afe feelings of the Ayatollahs as they went their ways on the unfortunate US

It is highly dangerous to Western interests to delay one moment longer a Western push to defuse the Middle East situation by at long last assuring a fair deal both for Palestinians and, conveniently for the Americans whose policies have so long denied it to themselves and to their allies elsewhere.

T. E. ROGERS,
Chichester,
Firway,
Grayshot,
Hindhead,
Surrey.
November 30.

Go west
From Professor Gwyn A. Williams
Sir, I have been transfixed by your editorial of December 1 in which, citing the Reverend Atherton Waugh, you assert that "the people of Britain become wiser as you go

further west". You expressed reservations about Plymouth but were firm on Taunton.

May I point out that the Rhondda, Merthyr Tydfil, Cardiff (West) and even Ebbw Vale lie to the west of Taunton? Anglesey of course was a heartland of Druidism until its roots fell from existence, but it is pipped at the post by Bardsey Island which boasts more Saints per square metre than any inhabited region west of Iran. By this reckoning, surely, the Wisest Men in Britain must include not merely Mr Nicholas Edwards but Mr Dafydd Wigley, Welsh Nationalist MP for Caernarfon, who has been so eloquent recently on "the accursed tide of materialism and Englishness sweeping the country".

Yours britannica,
GWYN A. WILLIAMS,
93-Pencisely Road,
Llandaff,
Cardiff (West).
December 1.

Answering Vatican charges

From Monsignor F. A. Miles

Sir, It is not surprising that Protestant theologians should defend the cause of "freedom of interpretation" (December 1). Such freedom is intrinsic to Protestantism. What is surprising is that Catholics should have signed the letter. Catholics know that the official teachers and shepherds of the flock are the Pope and the bishops. Anyone else who reaches, theologian or otherwise acts as a delegate of those bishops upon whom rests responsibility for preserving the content of Faith. St Paul's letters to Timothy and Titus leave no doubt about this.

The Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith acts in the name of the Holy Father and the bishops in matters of interpretation of doctrine and Scripture. To suggest that it has no right to question a theologian whose expressed opinions about the Resurrection and the Virgin Birth appear to be unorthodox is surely untrue.

F. A. MILES,
Spanish Place Rectory,
22 George Street,
Portman Square.

From Mr T. J. Finigan
Sir, Professor Lash and others (December 1) are keen to criticize the procedures used by the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in its examination of the opinions of Professor Schillebeeckx. They leave open the question of whether such an examination ought to take place at all. To many, the work of Rome's investigation of the doctrinal orthodoxy of otherwise of an author may itself seem abhorrent.

However, Pope Paul VI, through our his pontificate consistently urged that theologians within the Catholic Church should remain loyal to the magisterium, an exhortation that Pope John Paul II has endorsed on more than one occasion. The news that steps are being taken to ensure that this exhortation is being followed should therefore come as no surprise and is indeed welcomed as long overdue by many Catholic priests and lay people involved directly in pastoral work.

The academic theologian has influence in the pastoral sphere in a manner far more powerful than that which the ordinary priest or teacher has in theological circles, and if clear guidance and strong leadership are not forthcoming from Rome, accusations of narrow-mindedness and shabby, unintellectual conservatism can be hurled with freedom within the Catholic Church at those who are simply trying to bear witness to Catholic doctrine. Protests on the part of priests, teachers or church-students against some of the views of theologians such as Professor Schillebeeckx can still be met with the reply that the views are widely held and that the theologians are in good standing with the Church.

It is therefore necessary in the name of honesty and as an act of justice for those who are maligned for refusing to bend with the prevailing wind of "theological thinking" that Rome should attempt to come to a decision one way or the other concerning the writings of Father Schillebeeckx and indeed those of other theologians. Such a move should not be regarded as the infringement of a "fundamental human right" but rather as a necessity if the task of evangelisation is to proceed unhampered by doubt concerning that which should be proclaimed.

Yours faithfully,
TOMAS FINIGAN.
Corpus Christi College,
Oxford.

Weapons for what?

From Captain P. D. Tatton Brown,

Sir, The one weapon that can (and nearly did) defeat us is the submarine missiles and bombs will merely destroy us. To make a start with "arms control" we need to take a "first step". Our Government should seek an international agreement on the abolition of all such weapons.

Such an agreement could be enforced by declaring that any found at sea after a certain date would be sunk. Submariners need sea training—I know, I was one. As a weapon it is of little use in peacetime: indeed nuclear submarines are a potential source of major pollution.

I should be sorry to see "submarines" die out of the Royal Navy. They were, in the days of diesel and batteries, a light-hearted hard working, resourceful body of men. Nevertheless, I believe we must take this first step in disarmament quickly for our grandchildren's sake.

Yours faithfully,
P. D. TATTON BROWN,
Grassport,
Brayford,
Barnstaple,
Devon.

A SORRY PASS

From Mr W. J. M. Speirs

Sir, In 1954 the German motoring club, ADAC, tried to introduce a signal of apology for motorists. It was suggested that the transgressor should smile and raise his hand, extending three fingers in the direction of the offended motorist. The sign was intended to represent the letter for *Entschuldigung*—excuse me.

Unfortunately the idea tended to raise tempers due to mistaken interpretation by drivers who, when given the signal, accompanied by a smile, replied by raising their pointed fingers to their temples—a sign which there was no mistaking. Yours truly,
W. J. M. SPEIRS.
GWYN A. WILLIAMS,
93-Pencisely Road,
Llandaff,
Cardiff (West).
December 1.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Plans for closures at British Steel

From Dr Jeremy Bray, MP for Motherwell and Wishaw (Labour)

Sir, Many of us predicted the abandonment of the target of the British Steel Corporation making losses by March 1980. But I for one did not foresee that the Government would maintain its refusal to finance losses after March 1980, despite the abandonment of the break-even target. The immediate consequence is that BSC is being forced into catastrophic closures. But even these will not avoid losses. The only alternatives left for BSC to sell good assets are to sell its prime assets to foreigners; or to borrow at ruinous interest rates without Treasury guarantee by mortgaging specific assets; or lastly to undertake window-dressing borrowing with concealed Treasury guarantees.

First, the closures. The suggestions of a further 32,000 redundancies, closing steel making at Llanwern and the mills at Port Talbot, leaving Runcorn alone to operate as an integrated steel works for flat products are seen by steel workers as vandalism on the part of BSC management. They can equally be seen as a move on the part of BSC management to maintain at least the basic structure of the industry intact in the face of irrational, uncalculating dogmatism on the part of the Government. But the closures will not leave any part or plant of BSC unharmed. Within Scotland, perfectly viable works like the plate mills at Dalzell and Clydebridge, the tube mill at Clydesdale and the special steel plant at Craigneuk Works, will be threatened, as well as the remnants of steel rolling at Glengarnock. There will be similar threats in other areas as all steel capacity is abandoned which cannot be operated profitably with an overvalued pound at the depths of a world recession.

The plants that will be maintained suffer from technical inefficiencies due to the scarcity of highly qualified staff than those do from overmanning at less skilled levels. Where de-manning is required it needs the co-operation of unions, which has been forthcoming. But already, in the face of present policies, the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation has ceased to participate in consultative machinery and withdrawn from all negotiations on manpower restructuring. Whether in building up or running down, the

Government has forced BSC to forfeit the cooperation of its own employees.

The policies and circumstances which have caused difficulties in the steel industry will affect all British manufacturing industries. The steel industry is not unique in its position in industry, making it particularly vulnerable to recession, its recent investment in new capacity, its affliction by the stock cycle, its commitment to capital goods customer industries, and its exposure to international competition by the homogeneity of its product, that make it the first to suffer. But the combination of savage deflation and an overvalued pound will gravely damage all British manufacturing industry. If the Government persists in its policies, it will destroy a quarter of British manufacturing industry within the next five years. And it will not be the least efficient quarter.

There must be some members of the Government who have some doubts about the wisdom of present Government policies. These policies stem from absolute reliance on the formulae relating public sector borrowing to economic growth and the money supply to inflation. Will they at least read the recent Bank of England discussion paper by Taylor and Threadgold, which shows that on recommended inflation accounting principles, the real general government borrowing requirement has generally been modest or negative? Will they reflect that the recessionary implications of trying further to reduce the borrowing requirement is supported by Hendry and Deaton's work on the countervailing tendency of personal saving to increase at times of inflation?

And do they realise, as Hibbert has shown, that their current policies are rapidly increasing the net national wealth of the public sector by writing down the real value of public sector debt and pauperising the rest of the economy? Is that really what they want?

Will Ministers realise that their dogmatic colleagues in the Treasury, and the Departments of Industry and Trade, are on the wrong track, that they have not thought through their policies, and that they have not examined the evidence dispassionately?

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY BRAY.
House of Commons.
December 3.

Taxing high pay increases

From Professor Lord Kaldor, FBA
Sir, The Chancellor's threat in Wednesday's debate of increasing taxation in the next Budget if pay settlements continued at high levels is likely to have the opposite effect to that intended. Since the taxes will have to be paid by everybody, the real sufferers will be those whose incomes have not increased in line with others. It is better, therefore, to cause trade union members to ask for more, rather than less, than they would have done otherwise.

To discourage high pay settlements the Chancellor needs to threaten, not with higher taxation as such, but with a special tax on increases of income over the previous year, a tax which could be levied at punitive rates whenever the excess on previous year's income exceeds, say, 5 per cent.

Though a part of this kind raises many administrative difficulties—it might mean end-of-year assessments for everybody—these could be overcome.

What could not be overcome is that any such policy would fly in the face of the Government's cherished objective of giving greater rewards to those who earn more.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS KALDOR,
King's College,
Cambridge.
November 30.

Mountbatten statue

From Mr J. S. Lloyd

Sir, Heartened by the support in your columns for an equestrian statue of Mountbatten in Trafalgar Square, may I add a plea that his horse should be modelled on the one he rode recently at the Trooping the Colour. The key to its style, as the first post-imperial equestrian statue must lie somewhere between Marcus Aurelius and Le Sueur's delicate little steed of Charles I at the head of Whitehall. But please save us from Haig's horse which must have been sculpted by a committee. (I'm surprised it wasn't a camel).

Yours faithfully,

SAM LLOYD,
5 Pickering Place.
St James's Street, SW1

November 27.

ment of France in the week before Dublin).

The Government is now advancing similar short term arguments for the acceptance of a supplementary budget now before the European Parliament, which would provide credits to cover the Commission's unauthorised spending of some £250 million over the past year on dumping dairy products on the world market. No considerations of expediency could justify agreement to this pernicious policy, which among other bad things—is one of the largest factors in the British budget.

Gaining our way in Europe and making a success of it is going to involve our Ministers and officials in much more hard—and principled—thinking than they have yet displayed. And the way we will know when we British have learned to play the Community game according to the rules will be the day when we give up the present practice of scoring "own goals".

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT JACKSON,
30 Erleigh Road,

Reading.

December 4.

Licensing pornography

From Mr David Avery

Sir, As a former City councillor for the West End ward of Westminster, I am worried by the howl of anger which has greeted the report of Professor Williams and his colleagues on the pornography business.

The horror which has greeted the suggestion that pornographic books and cinemas should be licensed takes no cognisance of the fact that bookshops already exist in vast numbers and that pornographic cinemas flourish in the guise of film clubs. To put one's head in the sand and refuse to consider licensing them will not make them disappear. Licensing by a local authority is the only way to achieve the control necessary to mitigate the impact of their street displays upon local residents, visitors and shoppers.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID AVERY,
4B Hanover House,
St John's Wood High Street, NW8.

Assisted places scheme



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

December 4: The Queen held an audience of the Queen of Tonga this morning.

The King and Queen of Tonga visited Her Majesty and remained to luncheon.

The Right Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of the Queen this evening.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Chancellor this morning visited the University of Cambridge.

This afternoon His Royal Highness toured Sawston Village College.

Lord Rupert Nevill was in attendance.

The Prince of Wales, Chancellor, the University of Wales this morning viewed an exhibition of the work of the Cardiff University Industry Centre in Central Hall, University College, Cardiff. His Royal Highness also noon visited the Royal House Day Centre, Barry, South Glamorgan, and subsequently, as Patron, the Abbeyside Society, visited Ty Dan Evans, St Nicholas Road, Barry.

The Prince of Wales, President of United World Colleges visited Atlantic College, St Donat's, South Glamorgan.

H.R.H. the Princess of Wales, attended by the Hon Edward Adeane, travelled in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight.

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, accompanied by Captain Mark Phillips, accepted the Honorary Livery of the Worshipful Company of Tanners at the court of Barber Surgeons' Hall, yesterday. A luncheon was held afterwards when Princess Anne, the Master and Mr Hugh Chapman made presentations. Sir Robert Legge-Bourke was in attendance.

Her Royal Highness and Captain Mark Phillips, attended by Mrs Andrew Peulen, were present this evening at the Westminster Ball in aid of "Birthing" at the Hilton Hotel, London.

KENSINGTON PALACE

December 4: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, today visited the Shoe Show, arranged by the Crafts Council at the Institute of Contemporary Arts and presented the Shoe Awards.

The Lady Anne Tennant was in attendance.

Her Royal Highness, Master of the Bench, this evening dined in Hall at Lincoln's Inn.

The Lady Anne Tennant and Major Gen. Lord Napier and Etrick were in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE

December 4: Commandant S. V. A. McBride today had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, Commander-in-Chief, Royal Navy Service, upon relinquishing her appointment as Director of the Service.

Commandant E. S. A. Craig-McFadye also had the honour of being received by Her Majesty upon assuming her appointment as Director of the Women's Royal Naval Service.

Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother this evening honoured the Royal Society of Arts with her presence. The Albert Medal was presented to the Albert Medal for 1979 to Sir Robert Mavor.

The Hon Mrs John Mulholland and Captain Alastair Alldred were in attendance.

The Hon Mrs John Mulholland has succeeded Ruth, Lady Fermoy as Lady-in-Waiting to Her Majesty.

Today's engagements

The Queen accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh visits the new headquarters of Marine Society and Royal Naval Cadet School, 335.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as President of the Royal Society of Arts, presents presidential awards for design management at the Society's house, John Adam Street, 9, 40; as senior fellow of the Council of Engineering Institutions, presents MacRobert Award, Buckingham Palace, 12, 40; and after failure dines with officers of the Institute of Mathematics, Cavendish Hotel, 8.

Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother dines with the French at Whitehall, 7, 45.

The Duchess of Kent opens house for the Stars Organisation for Spastics, 34, Datchwell Close, Caversham, 2, 40.

Princess Alexandra presents awards for C & A National Schools' Choir Competition in aid of Arthritis Rheumatism Association, Hilton hotel, 1, 45.

Exhibitions: British shoes since 1790, ICA Gallery, Nash House, Carlton House Terrace, 12-3; Paintings by Atkinson Grimshaw, Society of British Museum and Art Gallery, 11-3.

Talk: "The London Bus," by Oliver Green, Museum of London, 1-10; "King's Lynn," by Dr David Adam, Education Centre, Lincoln, 7-10.

Lugano music: Madeline Marini, violin, and Sally Marini piano, St Olave's, 1-10; Richard Towndrow plays, Mendelssohn, Franck and Brahms, 11-10; organ recital by Graham Liss-Goss, St Brid's Church, 11-10; and Marianne Judith Buckle, mezzo soprano, Martin-within-Ludge, 11-10.

Concert: Advent Carol by students of King's College, St Martin's, Finsbury, Teaching Centre, Bathgate, 1-10.

Memorial service: Barnes Skirmishers of Quarter, St Margaret's, Westminster, 11-10; Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer, Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, 11-10; Liberal Jewish Synagogue, St John's Wood, 6 pm; Lieutenant-Colonel H. E. Peacock, St Martin-in-the-Fields, 3 pm.

Haileybury

The Music School, comprising new teaching and practice rooms and the renovated Bradley Hall, was opened by Mr John Manduell (Bartholomew 1942-46), Principal of the Royal Northern College of Music, and Sir Edward Elgar, President of the Royal Philharmonic Society.

The concert was preceded by a performance of the *Gloria*, by Vivaci, with the choir and chamber orchestra conducted by Mr J. Hindmire, Director of Music. After Council luncheon in Hall, the Wharton Building, of 34 Studies and the Geography Department was occupied by Bishop of St Albans, the Right Rev R. A. K. Runcie, president of the council of Hullsbury. Members of Council and special guests were present, including Mr R. A. R. Henderwick, President of the Royal Society, Mr J. Forrest, Chairman of the East Hertfordshire District Council, Mr D. Fisher, Director of Education for the County of Hertford, and Major and Mrs F. R. Dore.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J. M. D. Davis and Miss M. S. E. Chodakowski. The engagement is announced between Jesse, youngest son of Major R. S. Davis, MBE, TD, and the late Anne Marie Davis (nee Baroness von Graevenitz) and Major Michael, younger son of Baron von Graevenitz, son of Baroness von Graevenitz Chodakowski and Baroness, Marianne Chodakowski (nee Braukhoff).

Mr G. Graham and Miss B. A. Isherwood. The engagement is announced between Glynn, youngest son of Mr and Mrs R. J. Morris, Hawes, North Yorkshire, and Sophie Jayne, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs E. M. Isherwood, of Romford, Essex.

Mr J. L. Morris and Miss S. J. Houghton. The engagement is announced between John, elder son of Mr and Mrs J. Morris, Hawes, North Yorkshire, and Sophie Jayne, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs E. M. Isherwood, of Romford, Essex.

Mr P. G. Arbuthnot and Miss S. Terry-Engel. The marriage took place on Saturday, December 1, at St Peter's, Eaton Square, of Mr Peter Geofrey Arbuthnot, son of the late Mr Michael Arbuthnot and Mrs Arbuthnot, of Egerton Place, and Mrs Barbara, daughter of Mr Terry-Engel, of Guernsey, and the late Mrs F. Terry-Engel. The Rev D. Tilley officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was in attendance.

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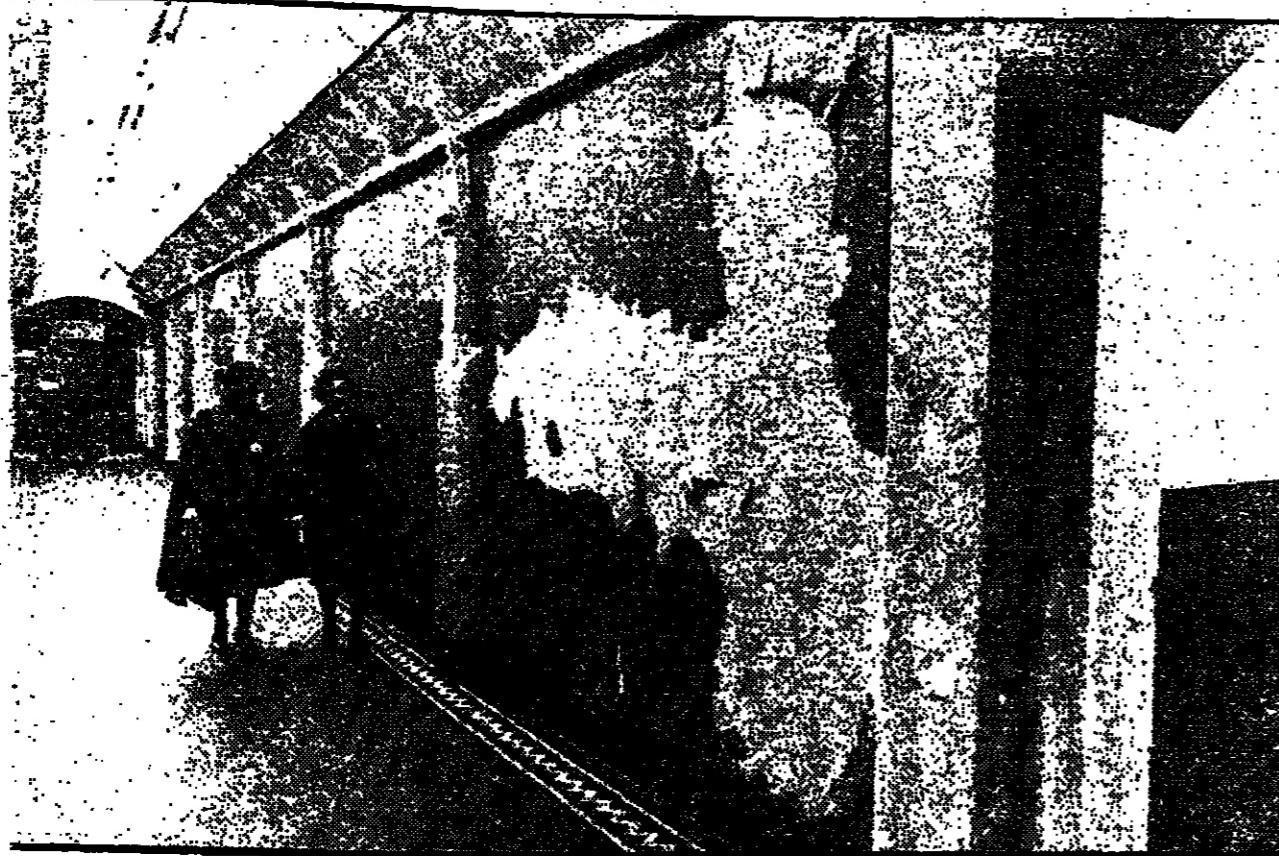
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Editorial Focus

Carry on nurse-as the money runs out



West Middlesex Hospital: peeling walls tell their own story.

alls all over the country, old, some new, are g themselves for the table but apparently able task of saving as part of the nment's spending cuts. In der Vat spent a week of the old hospitals to get idea of the problems ed.

members of the Ealing, Hammersmith and Hounslow Area Health Board today to consider the most agenda in the authority's short after refusing on October 24 to any cuts in local health services their view would adversely affect they will today consider a threat to the Government if they comply with strict cash limits. The big hospitals whose future end on the outcome is the West Hospital in Isleworth, an in which is not untypical of the Health Service in that there are others like it all over the country wholly typical because the service some of the most modern hospitals world. Management of the West Middlesex already begun a detailed sensible cuts and has even imposed some. One of its more recent is to ban the issue of cakes with afternoon tea, which is expected at least 5p per head per day. It appeals the observer is the g perversity of the decision to ban as it was by three distinct medical men, a nursing officer, account and a professional administrator who constitute the Management Team (DMT) in the hospital. In a better world, highly qualified people would bepend their time on higher things, dietary reductions will together £50,000 a year out of a total budget of about £18m.

est Middlesex Hospital stands on site in the endless Heathrow flatlands of outer west London, has more than enough problems, them deriving directly from the place. It is by a large margin a capital asset and responsibility of Health District, one of four supervised by the Ealing Smith and Hounslow Area Health (AHA) which in turn comes North-West Thames Regional authority (RHA). At the top of the tree, a mighty growth upwards, is the Department of Social Security (DHSS). One thing the National Health Service (NHS) is not short of is initials. Settling else it does not lack, critics, it is bureaucracy. With the Blouson DMT suggests a list of possible savings to the AHA that districts should jettison, even though this would sap their administrative posts, threaten their own careers, significant that this proposal would more "money" than any of the long list sent to the AHA, about £400,000. In the meantime, it has been shelved, but only because S has announced since the last was that it plans to eliminate one the RHA's administrative structure, by the AHA an unhappy intention by the last Conservative went in 1974.

ISS spokesman told *The Times* Government shared the view that S bureaucracy is unwieldy and pruned. At the moment, England and Wales are separately d) has 14 REAs, 90 AHA's.

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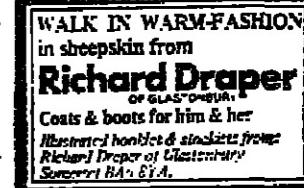
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LAING

make ideas take shape



WALK IN WARM FASHION
in sheepskin from
Richard Draper
of GLOSTONBURY
Coats & boots for him & her
Illustrated booklet & samples from
Richard Draper of Glastonbury
Somerset BA1 6JA.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

■ Stock markets
FT Ind 423.3, up 4.8
FT Gilt 64.52, up 0.7
■ Sterling
\$2.1950, down 1.80 cents
Index 69.8, down 0.1
■ Dollar
Index 85.9, up 0.3
■ Gold
\$429 an ounce, down 33.4
■ 3-month money
Interbank 16 15/16 to 17
Euro 5 1/4 to 1/4

IN BRIEF

Lloyd's deposits up sharply next year

New members of the Lloyd's insurance market face huge increases in the sums they will be required to lodge with the market when underwriting policies.

The increases, which represent more than 100 per cent in some cases, will come into effect in January and are the most significant move to date in Lloyd's efforts to improve the chain of security behind its policy.

The new deposit levels are tied to individual members' premium limits. For example, in the case of a British national living in the United Kingdom and preparing to stand behind premiums of £250,000, the deposit requirement will rise from £30,000 to £62,500.

Only new members will be affected by the changes initially.

BL-Rolls-Royce link

British Leyland and Rolls-Royce Motors have decided to pool their expertise in the specialized design and manufacture of transmissions for tracked military vehicles. A new joint company, Trackpower Transmissions, will operate from premises in Coventry.

Mortgages worry

As many as 30,000 fewer mortgages could be available next year if all existing borrowers choose to extend their mortgage term instead of paying more when the mortgage interest rate is increased from 11.75 per cent to 15 per cent on January 1. The Provincial Building Society claimed.

Euronet expansion

The European Community's new on-line information service, known as Diane (Direct information access network for Europe), and using the Euronet data-transmission network, is likely to be opened up for access from the United States, Canada and Mexico, if problems of tariff structure can be solved.

EMI takeover

Thorn Electrical Industries appears to have gained control of EMI. Although the final acceptance figure will not be made known until this morning, Hambros, Thorn's merchant bankers, were fairly confident last night that the £164m bid will go unconditional.

Radio shares plan

Radio Clyde, the commercial station which serves the Glasgow and Strathclyde area of Scotland, is believed to be planning a Stock Exchange quotation under rule 16(2) of the new year. It will join Radios Orwell, Fort and Thames Valley in having its shares dealt in this way.

\$60m Eurobond issue

For the second time in a month, the European Investment Bank is coming to London to raise capital from United Kingdom institutional investors. Kleinwort Benson is launching a \$60m 12-year Eurobond with a 11 per cent coupon which will be placed with British investors.

Airfix talks

A delegation of representatives from the Airfix Industries in Liverpool, which workers are occupying after the recent closure, will be joined by officials in London for talks with the Airfix board.

Britain resists EEC pressure for pledge on oil output

From Peter Norman

Brussels, Dec 4

Britain today withheld pressure from other EEC member states to commit itself formally to increasing production of North Sea oil in the event of a shortage of supplies in Europe.

West Germany and France were seeking a promise of increased output and an undertaking that Britain would give its parochial preference to its own North Sea oil in the event of supply shortfalls below the 7 per cent limit of decline at which the International Energy Agency's oil sharing scheme begins to apply.

Mr Norman Lamont, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy, told a meeting of energy ministers here that it was impossible for Britain to raise its oil production at short notice and that other EEC states were already getting priority in obtaining oil shipments.

Observers here believe that the West German and French are attempting to test Britain's willingness to compromise on energy issues in the wake of last week's EEC summit in Dublin.

"Sooner or later Great Britain has to decide whether it is on the side of the Nine or Opec," was the comment from one west German official today.

The British energy minister pointed out that the Community budget 56 per cent of United Kingdom oil exports in the first eight months of this year.

Although Mr Lamont said after today's meeting that he felt the other EEC states had gained a greater awareness of the British position, there was some irritation felt in other delegations.

Indonesia wants to ensure that the increase does not come as a shock to the western economies, pitching the world into a greater recession.

Professor Subrahmanyam, the mining minister, said: "The increase in the price of oil must be gradual over a long period so the world has time to adjust."

He recommended that oil prices should be fixed for a 12-month period.

Herr Hellmuth Buddenberg, chairman of Deutsche BP and

accounting for one third of total production, and that these deliveries were made at a time when Britain had yet to become self-sufficient.

He said it was technically impossible to speed increase in production, which in any event is scheduled to rise to 83 million tonnes next year from 76 million in 1979 and 50 million last year.

Today's meeting agreed to limit the European Community's overall oil imports to 472 million tonnes next year and submit this target to the meeting of the international energy agency in Paris next Friday.

Britain's export target was set at 12 million tonnes against 143 million tonnes for West Germany, 117 million tonnes for France and 103.5 million tonnes for Italy.

Among the smaller countries of Europe, targets were set at 42 million tonnes for Holland, 30 million tonnes for Belgium, 16.5 million tonnes for Denmark, 6.5 million for Ireland and 1.5 million in the case of Luxembourg.

David Watts writes from Jakarta: Indonesia will press for a moderate increase in the price of oil at the Caracas meeting of Opec this month, in line with its policy of gradually raising oil prices to the level of other substitute oil energy.

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Heavy sales by Federal Reserve to aid dollar on foreign exchanges

From Frank Vogl

New York, Dec 4

The New York Federal Reserve Bank is again intervening in the foreign exchange market to strengthen the United States dollar, according to bankers here.

In the three months to the end of October the American monetary authorities sold \$4.139m (about £2.20m) of Deutsche marks and \$44.2m of Swiss francs in the markets to bolster the dollar.

Mr Scott Pardee, senior vice-president and manager of foreign operations at the Fed here, commented today on official intervention, changes in interest rates, the effects of the Iranian crisis on the currency markets, the relationship between the dollar and changes in the European Monetary System and the Fed's role.

Fears that some foreign governments might liquidate dollar holdings now because they viewed the blocking of Iranian funds as establishing a dangerous precedent were seen by some traders as a prime cause of the

Iranian situation and the real reasons why the United States authorities decided to freeze Iranian official assets here.

This was a unique situation and that the Administration acted in direct response to a statement by an Iranian official that deposits might be withdrawn and indications from Iranian officials that Iran might repudiate its international debts, he said.

Mr Pardee said the foreign exchange market often exaggerated dangers, suffered from misconceptions of official policies and was sometimes influenced by a tendency among traders to swap gloomy scenarios, the current situation reflected this, he suggested.

Fears that some foreign governments might liquidate dollar holdings now because they viewed the blocking of Iranian funds as establishing a dangerous precedent were seen by some traders as a prime cause of the

dollar's latest difficulties. Mr Pardee stressed that "the blocking of Iranian assets was a temporary measure and it is still our hope that it will be temporary".

The Fed official said the credit tightening moves taken by the Federal Reserve Board on October 6 would continue to strengthen the dollar, and the beneficial effects of those moves on money supply growth were of prime importance. He suggested that if a recession started, it would undoubtedly reduce the nation's trade deficit which would also be sure to have a positive effect on the dollar in the markets.

The Fed official pointed out that the purpose of Fed intervention was to reassure the markets, not to talk the dollar up or down, but just to secure stable rates. He noted that it was not anyone's interest to have a lower dollar rate now, because this could add to pressure to

raise global oil prices.

The pound slipped back on the currency markets yesterday, as the dollar recovered a little from its fall on Monday. Sterling closed at \$2.195, down 1.2 cents.

The dollar gained by nearly 2 pence against the Deutsche mark, to close at DM1.7275. It was little changed against the Swiss and Japanese currencies. Dealers said that there was no particular reason for the dollar's recovery—it was probably a technical adjustment to its sharp fall on Monday.

During November \$510m of British public sector debt was

repaid overseas. The Water Council made a \$200m scheduled repayment to Iran, apparently after the American freezing of Iranian assets.

New foreign borrowing through the exchange cover scheme totalled \$422m in November. British Airways, the South of Scotland Electricity Board and the Post Office all made borrowings during the month. The Electricity Council paid back \$175m on schedule in November. Early repayments of the \$800m outstanding of a £1,000m loan it took in 1973 will be made between now and the end of March, 1980.

The first part of this \$800m may be paid back in December and will show up in this month's reserves figures.

The prepayment is part of the Government's strategy to reduce Britain's foreign debt.

At the end of November this stood at \$22,400m, of which £18,800m was short or medium term debt.

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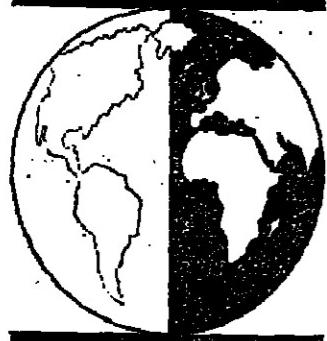
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Iran could again cut output of oil

Iran is considering a further reduction in its output of oil. Mr. Abolhassan Banisadr, the Economics and Finance Minister told a rally outside the occupied United States embassy in Teheran yesterday.

He gave no hint of what the further cut might be but is producing about 3.5 million barrels of oil a day, considerably less than the four million barrel a day target planned after the overthrow of the Shah.

Meanwhile in Kuwait, where the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries is meeting, Mr. Ezzedin Mabrouk, the Libyan oil minister, said the world market could absorb higher oil prices. Khalifa H. Abulaziz, the Oater finance and petroleum minister said his country favoured small gradual increases.

The price fixing organization, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, meets in Caracas, Venezuela, on December 17.

Most competitive listed

West Germany and Switzerland are the most competitive countries in western Europe, according to a survey by the European Management Forum of Geneva. Well behind come France, Sweden, the Netherlands, Britain, Belgium and Luxembourg (taken together), Denmark and Austria. Ireland is 10th in the list.

EEC index slightly up

The European Economic Community's industrial production index, based on 100 in 1975, rose 0.7 per cent to 117.5 in September (adjusted for seasonal variations) after falling 1.2 per cent in August. Productions rose only 4 per cent between September 1978 and September this year after a rise of 5.2 per cent in the previous 12 months.

Talbot plant dispute

Madrid's Talbot car plant has been closed for an indefinite period because of a dispute on safety, trade union officials have said. The conflict stems from an accident at the works on November 13.

Cheap imports and high costs force fibres plants to adopt survival plan

ICI prepares to explain away 3,000 jobs

Management at Imperial Chemical Industries has begun what it calls a "massive communications exercise" aimed at outlining a survival plan for the group's ailing fibres division to employees. This could involve more than a quarter of the division's 10,600 workers being made redundant in coming months.

So far, cutbacks have been announced for two of the division's units. At Kilroot, near Belfast, 600 jobs will be lost, while about 450 will be made redundant at Pontypridd, Gwent, where a £50m scheme to increase polyester filament production has also been delayed.

Union representatives have, however, been told unofficially that further cuts in the work force are likely to be necessary at the division's other production centres at Darnall, Gloucester, and Wilton, Cleveland.

ICI is naturally unwilling to give details of further cuts at a time when it is scrutinising the business to see where savings can be made and efficiency improved. It is thought that the final total of redundancies will fall not far short of 3,000.

Already, staffing in the fibres division has been reduced by some 7,500 since 1973. Last year ICI recorded a loss of £13m on its fibres operations and heavy losses have adversely affected market competitiveness. Added to these potentially difficult conditions has come a rapid increase in cheap American man-made fibres, produced with artificially low feedstock and energy prices.

The competitive advantage of cheap energy enjoyed by American importers may be ended as a result of talk now being had between the Washington administration and the European Commission. However, ICI believes that trading patterns have already been altered to its disadvantage, probably permanently. It accepts, too, that economies of scale give American producers a cost advantage.

The company remains optimistic that a "survive and prosper" solution can be

oil-based synthetic fibres and, by putting a brake on economic growth, further inhibited sales.

Production plants, begun at a time when demand was expected to continue to rise, contributed to a world over-capacity in man-made fibres.

Restrictions on cheap imports, achieved under the Multi-Fibre Arrangement, provided a brief respite. But ICI, in common with other producers of man-made fibres, has now found that it faces the familiar problem of cutting costs and raising efficiency is being explored. It has been calculated, for example, that the fibres division could save £450,000 annually if it used 10 per cent fewer polythene bags, woven polypropylene sacks, cardboard cartons and paper tubes.

But no one pretends that such cosmetic changes can prevent the division undergoing painful surgery. The unions, in a joint statement with management last week, have promised to give every co-operation in the present examination of working methods and training levels.

Mr. Michael Wetherton, national industrial officer for the General and Municipal Workers Union, sees some jobs due to be cut in other sectors of ICI could be saved by a refusal to work overtime. In the fibres division he accepts, scope for such change is limited.

"We recognise that the fibres division is in a very difficult situation," he said. "Its market is simply no longer there."

John Huxley

Monotype on target to break even this year

By Kenneth Owen
Technology Editor

Monotype Corporation rescued from the threat of liquidation in November 1978 by the National Enterprise Board and Barclays Bank, after losing about £3m that year, said yesterday that the company should break even in 1979.

"Our projections are that that target will be achieved," he told a press conference in London. The company's sales for the year would be about £12.5m in the United Kingdom and about £6m for associated companies overseas.

Sales of the company's computer-based phototypesetting systems had risen by 63 per cent this year, and orders by 76 per cent. These were handled by Monotype International, the main trading division, and one of three operating companies within the corporation.

The other two companies are Monotype Communications (word-processing systems) and Monotype (hot-metal typesetting and otherническое engineering). Exports are running at about 80 per cent of sales, and the company's "Lasercomp" machine has sold particularly well this year. This is claimed to be the only laser typesetter in the world; 51 of these have been installed over the past year.

Discussions involving the Chinese version of the Lasercomp are now taking place between Monotype International and the China Printing Corporation. Monotype is seeking \$2,500m in loans

Unpaid bills threat to smaller companies

Patricia Tisdall

A warning that small firms could be in difficulties unless big companies pay their bills on time was delivered yesterday by Mr. Flemmings Cornwellis, chairman of the Confederation of British Industry's Smaller Firms Council.

Mr. Cornwellis, speaking at a meeting of the council in London, said: "I hope we shall not see small firms being brought down into the dust during the present period of high interest rates.

He added: "What we need in Britain today is an expanding smaller firms sector, not a declining one."

The increase in interest rates was a necessary part of the Government's determination to get the money supply under control, in the CBI's view.

Bar "co-operation" between large and small firms is essential if too many smaller firms are not to suffer greatly from the burden which a 17 per cent minimum lending rate places on industry", he said.

His warning is in line with a policy decision taken at the November meeting of the main CBI Council. The council accepted that big companies had an obligation to smaller firms when making adjustments in credit or payment arrangements.

Small firms are considered to be the most vulnerable to the effect of high interest rates.

Also, when business is slack generally, main contractors tend to cut down work which is contracted to smaller enterprises before reducing the scale of their own operations.

Nicaragua seeks \$2,500m in loans

Nicaragua is seeking \$2,500m (about £1.41m) of new international loans on easy terms to revive its economy. Senior Alejandro Rodriguez, director

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

House ownership and industrial investment

From Mr D. S. Robertson

companies of £25,000m to £60,000m in 1980.

The capital gains tax penalises investment in industrial shares at the same time as mortgage interest relief attracts it into housing.

In order to assert its priorities, the Government should make four bold moves:

(1) Abolish mortgage interest relief.

(2) Introduce a capital gains tax on the sale of private houses.

(3) Increase private rental accommodation by altering the law relating to tenancy.

(4) Introduce a tax relief scheme for the purchase of industrial shares. The 1978 "Monitory" Act in France brought in £400m to £450m of new investment to the Paris Bourse.

Britain's concept of a property owning democracy must be replaced by that of a share-owning democracy. Current legislation has resulted in an unproductive economy.

Yours faithfully,
D. S. ROBERTSON,
Portora Royal School,
Enniskillen,
Co. Fermanagh,
Northern Ireland.

The reverse side of this coin is under-investment in industry. The latest investment survey by the Department of Industry predicts a fall of up to 7 per cent in manufacturing investment in 1980. CBI forecasts indicate that the rise in borrowings could give a deficit for industrial and commercial

During 1980, some £150 per head of the subscriptions paid by this institution's 75,000 members is to be allocated to schools liaison activities on behalf of the profession and of industry. We are convinced that this is money well spent, an investment in the nation's future prosperity.

In addition to this, the Institution of Mechanical Engineers will have to raise further sums to ensure continuation of our teacher fellowship scheme which we believe has been an outstanding success in letting teachers see how industry really works but as yet is too small to have had a sufficient impact on the total school scene.

Government, and some industrial organisations and companies, do not recognise the need to invest more in the best brains in the country in an engineering career at an early stage of development—that is to say while at school—but we need more than just encouragement if the progress which has been made is to be continued.

Yours faithfully,
J. G. DAWSON,
President,
Institution of Mechanical
Engineers,
1 Birdcage Walk,
London SW1H 9AJ.

This Advertisement is issued in compliance with the Regulations of the Council of The Stock Exchange.
It is not an invitation to purchase shares.



Spring Grove Services Limited

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the whole of the issued share capital of Spring Grove Services Limited ("Spring Grove") to be admitted to the Official List.

Share Capital

Authorised

£3,000,000

Ordinary shares of 10p each

Issued and fully paid

£2,500,000

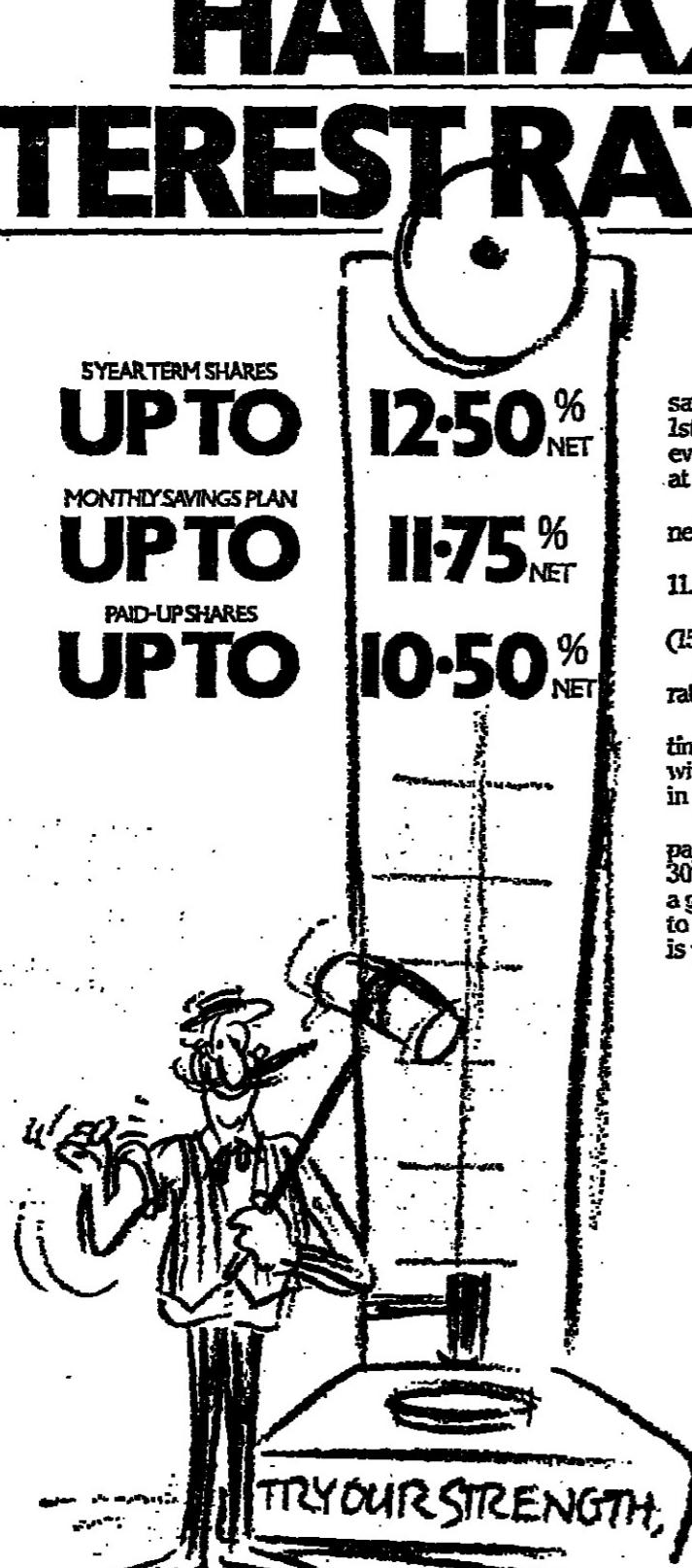
Particulars relating to Spring Grove are available in the Extel Statistical Services. Copies of the Extel Card may be obtained until 19th December 1979 from:

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Now the Halifax
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لما من الممكن

Women at the top in business

From Mr Robert Arkle

Sir, In November, 1976, you kindly published a letter from me asking whether women were unwilling to pay the price of executive status in view of their then reticence to move into managerial jobs.

Three years later the situation, if anything, is worse. In the senior job stakes, "women's No." must be counted a failure, despite the reinforcement of government legislation and the benefits of marked changes in corporate attitudes. Women are still not coming forward to take up the managerial jobs from which they apparently fled excluded.

In the United States, the infiltration of women into the alleged masculine dominated business world has grown, according to the United States Census Bureau, from 15.5 per cent of all managers and administrators in 1953 to 18.5 per cent in 1975 and 23 per cent in 1978. I would be very surprised indeed if their British sisters have achieved anything like this.

Once more I ask myself the reason for this lack of female assertiveness (so often noticeable in other areas). Is it lack of confidence in themselves? Is it shyness? Plain laziness? Or, have they given up the battle after failing so many times? Or, is it the doubtful case, as the French proverb puts it, of giving themselves to God when the devil has no more use for them? I would welcome the answer.

We still receive many requests from clients, famous names in British and international industry and commerce, for qualified men and women to fill jobs in the consumer goods or service industries. But, after advertising competitive salaries and terms and demanding nothing but the way of desirable experience, frequently not one woman comes forward! Why?

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT ARKLE,
Chairman,
Robert Lee International,
24 Berkeley Square,
London W1X 5AR.
November 23.

Steel losses

From Mr Anthony Bradbury

Sir, I am disconcerted to learn that all the hard that I will pay to the nation in my working life is being squandered by the British Steel Corporation in 30 minutes.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY BRADBURY,
8 Winchester Park,
Bromley,
Kent.
December 1.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Obstacles in the gilt market

Yesterday's figures showing our foreign currency reserves little changed in November offered no particularly strong message for financial markets. Presumably, however, the month saw some fairly substantial private sector outflows across the exchanges and, in the second half of the month, increased overseas buying of sterling in response to the domestic interest rate increase and the impact of the worsening Iranian situation on the dollar.

Of more immediate significance for the gilt market is today's call on Treasury 133 per cent 2000-03. This will drain the market of £710m. Together with probable sales of several hundred million of the short/medium "tap", this should add up to a respectable amount of funding as far as the authorities are concerned, for banking December—though how much of the new stocks will have finished up in the hands of the non-bank private sector—is another question.

Certainly, the market will be hoping that the December money supply figures will start to show some improvement—it is not expecting anything particularly encouraging from next week's November banking figures—but the December figures will not, of course, be out before the New Year.

Meanwhile, the market is already largely discounting a "reasonable" settlement of the miners' pay claim and good news on this front is not likely to cause any fireworks. If it speeds up the running out of the remaining short-medium "tap", that may encourage the short-end of the market, but, overall, the market already seems to be settling into pre-Christmas lethargy.

Ranks Hovis

Slicing up a smaller market

Ranks Hovis McDougall surprised even itself with a full-year profits rise of 3 per cent to £32.6m. Having been hit badly by the bakery strike in the first-half, the group had warned at the interim stage that second-half profits were also likely to fall.

However, profitability in bread-baking has improved more dramatically than expected since Spillers withdrew from the scene and the two main survivors made their own rationalization moves. At the same time RHM and Associated British Foods have managed to recoup perhaps three-quarters of the market share yielded to independents as a result of the strike.

Now with a 2½ per cent price rise coming into effect and the latest industry wage round completed without bloodshed RHM looks set for significant recovery next year. True, milling profits are coming under pressure despite the price rises forced through by Spillers during its fight to stave off the Dalgety bid while the long-term decline in bread consumption is not abating.

In this case pre-tax profits of possibly £45m next year may represent little more than a breathing space in the long-term decline of major food group. Ranks, however, now seems to be looking at its options more squarely in the face. Sale of the Canadian subsidiary leaves the group with cash to spend in the United States and further overseas developments are likely in spite of pressure on the balance sheet.

The shares up 3p to 47p yesterday, yield just under 11 per cent thanks to a maintained payment and a p/e ratio of under 7 could start looking to the future a little more hopefully than has been the case in the past four years.

Mergers

Thoughts for the future

It is strange perhaps but while mergers or takeovers present relatively few technical problems outside the market place, "de-mergers" or the idea of spinning off a subsidiary pose hideous tax and legal difficulties.

The prospect of making it easier for companies to break-off an asset, either for the direct benefit of shareholders or otherwise

is one that attracts this Government. A study group, set up by the Department of Trade is now looking at the situation. If its research produces interesting and feasible ideas, they could find their way into a second Competition Bill during this Parliament.

There is no great urgency about this nor could there be given the formidable workload, but nevertheless such thinking demonstrates that this administration like its predecessors is frustrated (albeit for different reasons) with the *ad hoc* nature of present merger policy.

A Competition Bill, due for Royal Assent by the end of the year, will help. Both the Office of Fair Trading and the Monopolies Commission will get greater powers. This in turn should streamline the vetting procedure for mergers.

But the Government which is against conglomerates for its own sake, is anxious to instigate some different thinking into boardrooms. Those who come to the view that a large part of their business could usefully stand on its own feet or indeed that it has become irrelevant to the main part of the business should be encouraged to "de-merge", not through active Government interference of course but because the difficulties of doing so are removed.

Companies laying-off an asset now either attract a capital gain tax liability (which may be fair enough) or, if they want to distribute the proceeds, land their shareholders with a heavy income tax liability, often at top rates and with investment income surcharge.

Almost always they shy away from the idea because of this, though some who have found ways through the maze.

Finding a way of excluding such distributions from the income-tax net is obviously difficult, but opponents of the Revenue position argue that shareholders have no more than they had before the disposal, only that their company has decided to seek the best possible price for part of their asset.

Plessey

Second-half confidence

After battling for so long to escape from its profit wilderness, Plessey has been a bit unlucky to see its first quarter recovery nipped in the bud by strikes which have hit the weak telecommunications side hardest and cut operating profits some £5m in the second quarter.

But there does seem to be a more optimistic approach to the future from Plessey's new management—with the group looking for higher second-half profits after the two-fifths drop in the second quarter to £6.25m pre-tax—compared with the pessimism of former years.

As it is on sales a tenth higher at £334m, operating profits emerge level-peggng for the half year at £21.5m but there has been a 40% drop in the associated contribution since the sale of its ICL holding adverse currency savings and interest charges, or a lower level of borrowing, have crept up to leave pre-tax profits a seventh down at £19.4m.

Plessey's confidence in the second-half comes from the strength of its order book. This is part the result of lost production due to the strikes but apart from the quarter rise from last year to £900m represents fairly good volume growth across the board.

But Plessey will be working flat out to make up lost sales which will stretch working capital (and perhaps plant capacity, especially in telecommunications) and could raise gross borrowing as a proportion of shareholders' funds by around 5 points from the present 30.9 per cent.

The sale of Garrard has removed the problems in consumer electronics while unprofitable telecommunications contracts are coming to an end. Full-year profits, however, are unlikely to be more than £50m for a fully taxed p/e ratio of about 10 at 108p. The prospective yield assuming Plessey keeps up its progressive dividend policy is around 9½ per cent but now that Racial appears to have passed Plessey by in its plans for the future of the electronics industry the shares are starting to look vulnerable.

Business Diary: MG's 'superman' • Shah's wholly Ghost

Christopher Reeves is older than his film star namesake, but he too can lay claim to the title superman. At 43 he is about to succeed former stockbroker Bill Mackworth-Young as chief executive of Morgan Grenfell & Co., banking base of Morgan Grenfell Holdings. Mackworth-Young becomes chairman.

The post carries with it chairmanship of the new management committee of the bank, so Reeves becomes answerable for the bank's performance to the board of the holding company.

Reeves has an unconventional background for a merchant banker. He started off (after service in the Rifle Brigade) as a trainee at the Bank of England and five years later moved to the then Phillip Hill, because he wanted "to get my teeth into some commercial deals". He found himself in the middle of the merger with M. Samuel, from which Hill Samuel emerged.

Then, at 32, he was persuaded by Lord Carlo (who takes over chairmanship of Morgan Grenfell Holdings when John Collins retires at the end of the year) to make the move to Great Winchester Street. He was asked to look at the structure of the organization and at the sort of people that the expansion-minded Morgan Grenfell should hire.

At a launching point for a high-flier this was just the job. He still says that the principal constraint on the bank in the space at which they can hire and train new people, but that the day in which he himself made a point of hiring outsiders with specific and developed skills arrived.

And not a smile between 'em. Sir John Methven (first right) is seen here putting on his inflation-fighting face for Franta Belsky in the sculptor's Kensington studio. Belsky was taken with the tool that so ingeniously has launched a thousand CBI position papers and asked its director-general to sit. Sir John, who won't sit still for anybody else, agreed. The result is to be cast shortly and may be exhibited in the new year at the exhibition of the Royal Society of Portrait Sculptors in the Guildhall.

• Rolls-Royce Motors is not unduly worried by the reluctance of the new Iranian government to settle a bill said to be of £25,000 for restoring the Shah's early version of its classic Silver Ghost. The company is continuing to work on another of the Shah's run-arounds, a Phantom, circa 1950.

As always, the purveyor of top cars for top people is circumspect when asked to discuss its clients. Polite, but firmly, the company spokesman deflected Business Diary's questions on the whereabouts of the Silver Ghost.

Business Diary is nothing if not persistent. What, we asked, if the Ayatollah's men do refuse to cough up?

"Well, there is such a thing as a lie," was the reply. A lie, as the more chatty Concise Oxford Dictionary explains: "The right to keep possession of property until debt is repaid or it is discharged."

In other words, if the



Iranians do not pay up, Rolls keeps the cars. But who in that case would be the winner? What are the care worth?

Off Business Diary set, on the trail of someone to put a price on a pre-1914 Silver Ghost, shadowed by a 1915 Phantom.

Though an old friend, the first Rolls dealer shied away as if we had the plague. "I'd love to help you, old son," he said, "but without actually seeing the car I could not give you even a rough price."

It was the same at two other dealers, one of them the famous Jack Barclay emporium in Berkeley Square, London.

Finally, it was back to Rolls, where our spokesman broke silence: "You can say that a lie, as the more chatty Concise Oxford Dictionary explains: 'The right to keep possession of property until debt is repaid or it is discharged.'

"Well, there is such a thing as a lie," was the reply. A lie, as the more chatty Concise Oxford Dictionary explains: "The right to keep possession of property until debt is repaid or it is discharged."

I was the Iranian ambassador, I'd cough up.

market promoters are buying the services of some big show business names to boost sales.

Thomas Cook Holidays has retained Eric Morecambe—"Big Tom, the King of the Happy Hols," he says of Cooks—and now holidays in the North of England are being sold with the help of Spike Milligan.

The ETC—"that's Chinese for the English Tourist Board", says Milligan in a television commercial later this month—is spending £5m next year trying to persuade the English to stay at home. The likes of Thor Hird, Melvyn Bragg, and Freddie Trueman have been asked to glow in print about Lancashire, Cumbria and Yorkshire in the board's brochures.

Michael Montague, the board's chairman, said at the launch of the 1980 holiday programme yesterday that a lot of nonsense was being talked about foreign holidays being cheaper than those taken at home.

I say that you can take an equivalent holiday for 10-20 per cent cheaper here than abroad.

Prinz has not put in all his time with Daimler-Benz or even in the motor industry. He spent the early part of his career in the steel business—as befits a Solingen man—and before joining the lorry group spent six years with Volkswagen, chairing the Audi-NSU subsidiary.

It was Professor Zahn, on Daimler-Benz's board for 20 years, who led the company's diversification into commercial vehicles.

• The holiday business looks like being more cut-throat than ever next year and in an effort to enlarge shares of a static

Arabs.

Ross Davies

Tub-thumping in France's industrial tribunal elections

PARIS

France is in the middle of a hectic election campaign. Posters are going up on walls, lamp-posts and the outside of lavatories everywhere in the traditional French fashion. Television is giving valuable airtime to what amounts to political party broadcasts. In-venue and bus are common-

place.

At stake are the votes of 14 million French workers and two million French employers in the first ever general taxpayers' election in France and probably the world. Only those who pay or receive pay in the private sector are eligible to vote and the poll is being seen by both unions and management as a test of their respective strengths.

The candidates they are voting for are not meant to be political, but at present that is a difficult thing to tell. They are in fact standing for the post of *Prud'homme* in the reshaped industrial tribunals.

A *Prud'homme* is someone who is elected by employers and workers, but only those who have both satisfied a number of conditions and have bothered to register are qualified to vote. At the last election in 1975 there were only 900,000 workers on the register and only 251,000 of these went to the trouble of voting.

The councils themselves are composed equally of representatives of the two sides, this has increasingly slowed their work over the years because of the growth of union militancy, which has created in return mounting management intrusiveness.

While only 10 years ago 45 per cent of cases were settled by the councils, today the figure is about 15 per cent. Since there are on average about 90,000 cases a year this means that more than 75,000 a year go on appeal, clogging up the law courts.

The purpose of the reforms has therefore been threefold—first, to enlarge the system so that it provides more councils covering the whole of the country; secondly, to enlarge their responsibilities; and third, to try to "depoliticize" them.

The first objective has been achieved without any real trouble. Each French judicial area will now have its own council, each with at least 20 members, bringing the total number to about 12,000.

Enlarging the type of work they can do has caused more trouble. The reforms mean that from now on each council will have five sections, one each for industry, commerce, agriculture and a miscellaneous category including such jobs as servants and cleaners.

The fifth group is the one that has caused the most trouble. It is for what the French call *cadres*—an untranslatable word usually rendered as "white-collar middle management". The fact that

the French are a little unclear about it, too, is shown by the fact that the employers and one union have applied to the state council for a definition of a *cadre*; above all, the increasing volume of work referred to them has meant delays of up to two years or even more in hearings.

The *Prud'hommes* themselves are elected by employers and workers, but only those who have both satisfied a number of conditions and have bothered to register are qualified to vote. At the last election in 1975 there were only 900,000 workers on the register and only 251,000 of these went to the trouble of voting.

But more important than the sheer number is the fact that the elections are being held on a proportional basis.

Under the old system candidates—especially from the union side—tended to be militant and probably politically motivated.

Next week's elections give every single worker the right to vote, assuming each employer has complied with the requirement to register everyone on the pay roll. Only one worker in four is a union member in France, so even though the rate of apathy among the non-members may well be high, the number of eligible voters is so large that it must tend to water down the vote for militant candidates.

But more important than the sheer number is the fact that the elections are being held on a proportional basis.

Under the old system candidates—especially from the union side—tended to be militant and probably politically motivated.

(CFDT) and the moderate Force Ouvrière (FO)—both of which are pleased by the result.

At the same time the unions are worried that workers' candidates have not been restricted to union members.

They believe this could result in independents, who are merely employers' stooges, being elected.

The result of it all is, though, that the unions find themselves for the first time in 17 years (in 1962 all workers could vote for representatives to the social security administration) candidates with a opportunity to see what their supporters in the country really is.

So all the unions are going in for blatant electioneering. The *Prud'hommes* are largely forgotten as each leader praises the virtue of his own organisation and pours scorn on the others.

Compared with that of the unions, the employers' election campaign is a fairly calm affair.

Nevertheless, two million of them are eligible to vote, since everyone who employs even one worker has the right to choose a representative in the list covering the trade or industry from which he derives his living.

The main French employers' organisation, the Confédération Nationale de Patronat Français (CNPF) which covers the big industries has been able to form a list of candidates common with several chambers of trade and the organization which covers small and medium-size businesses.

In all there are nearly 45,000 candidates, 37,000 for the employees and 6,500 for the employer. The trial of strength between the big three unions is obvious from the fact that there are 11,000 more candidates than there are council posts available on the union side.

The CFDT, with 8,875 candidates, has the most in the field but the other two are not far behind. At the other end of the scale there are 1,175 independent candidates.

When the upturn dies down France will be left with its new councils, elected for six years, and it will be up to the mto see if the reforms have really created a better industrial relations climate than before.

Ian Murray

Is television facing an advertising slump?

Derek Harris

advertisers to cut back on advertising. This could usher in a best, massive discounting and an worst substantial cut-off.

According to AGF, ITV revenues are likely to be only 5 to 10 per cent up this year compared with last. Without the strike they might have expected a 20 per cent rise.

The strike cost ITV about £90m in lost revenue of which they may claw back £20m by packing schedules at often premium rates. Last year turnover, not of agency commissions, was £636m.

But a 20 per cent rise—in cash, not as real terms—would have compared with the 21 per cent increase 1978 showed over the previous year and the 30 per cent of 1977 on 1976.

It is difficult to make any consistent prediction about 1980 revenues. One estimate is that television radio gains at least 4% during the strike. Although not much by television turnover standards, it is large in relation to commercial radio's turnover of rather more than £30m. Some believe half these extra cash will mean a jump in profits for a short time at least.

YARROW

and Company Limited

Summary of Results for year ended 30th June 1979

	1979 £'000	1978 £'000
Turnover	13,014	6,746
Pre-Tax Profit	1,408	1,396
Attributable Profit	910	588
Dividends	300	206
Earnings per Share	24.7p	22.5p
Dividends - Interim	1.85p	1.70p
- Final	5.65p	3.45p
	7.50p	5.15p
Dividend Increase	45%	11%

The following are extracts from the Statement by the Chairman,
Sir Eric Yarrow, M.B.E., D.L.

6 Taking into account the difficult transitional period following the nationalisation of our major shipbuilding subsidiary, the results above are satisfactory. Group pre-tax profit includes only the interest on compensation payments received to date and is thus still under-stated by an unquantifiable amount. Your Board has decided to recommend that the annual dividend be brought up to 7.5 pence per share, which represents an increase of 45% over the previous year's restricted dividend.

Compensation and Distribution

The new Government has delayed for an indefinite period the question of the return to private ownership of the naval shipbuilding companies. This decision was most disappointing to us as we would have preferred early reacquisition of our former subsidiary company to a settlement of compensation on terms which are unlikely to reflect the asset value and future prospects of that company on vesting day. It is likely that the reacquisition of Yarrow (Shipbuilders) Limited by Yarrow and Company Limited is now impracticable. Your Board is therefore primarily concerned to ensure that Yarrow and Company Limited should receive fair and reasonable compensation for the loss of its former subsidiary.

The negotiations with the Department of Industry are delicate and confidential but I have to report that I am extremely disappointed at

the progress so far made. Your Board will continue to take every possible step to achieve a just settlement and when the negotiations have been concluded or a definite statement can be made I will inform shareholders by a special circular.

No further progress has been made with our application for fair treatment on the question of a further distribution from Yarrow (Shipbuilders) Limited. Our view, supported by professional advice, continues to be that to allow only £2.6 million of distributions out of available profits of almost £12 million earned by Yarrow (Shipbuilders) Limited in the four-year period up to vesting date cannot possibly be regarded as fair and reasonable. In effect, the substantial balance has been virtually confiscated. I hope that it may yet be possible to persuade the appropriate authorities that such a gross injustice must be put right.

The Future

In the past two years significant progress has been made in rebuilding and expanding the Yarrow Group following the nationalisation of our shipbuilding company. However until such time as the compensation and distribution issues are satisfactorily resolved it is extremely difficult to make future plans and commitments. Our principal subsidiary companies have scope for further expansion and the Group thus has a sound base on which to build. 79

Copies of the Annual Report may be obtained from: The Secretary, Yarrow and Company Limited, Charing Cross Tower, Glasgow G2 4UN. The Fifty Eighth Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, 27th December 1979.

FINANCE FOR INDUSTRY LTD

Six months unaudited consolidated results

	6 months to September 30		Year to March 31
	1979 £'000	1978 £'000	1979 £'000
Group income before interest and provisions	58,211	44,724	93,952
Interest on borrowings	35,708	28,218	61,597
Provisions	7,481	4,321	7,004
	43,189	32,539	68,601
Profit before tax	15,022	12,185	25,381
Estimated tax	6,988	5,250	10,517
	8,034	6,935	14,834
Profit after tax	307	225	533
Minority interest	7,727	6,710	14,301
Extraordinary items	1,482	1,502	3,158
	6,245	5,208	11,143
Interest dividend	2,000	-	200
Increase in retained surplus	4,245	5,208	10,943

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock Markets

Miners give a lift to sentiment

News that the confrontation with the miners looked like being averted gave the Stock Market an unexpected boost yesterday. But dealers were quick to point out that business remained thin with short positions on the books accounting for most of the improved performance.

Gold shares remained active as a result of the deteriorating situation in the Middle East and the higher bullion price which at one point touched \$436 before falling on profit taking ahead of today's (Wednesday's) IMF gold auction.

Oils were another buoyant sector following warnings from several of the major oil com-

panies that oil shortages are anticipated in the new year.

Gilts were once again active on reports of a imminent oil shortage. Ultramar leapt 24p to 42p followed closely by merger partners Oil Exploration 14p up to 65p and Lassco 12p better at 34p. BP advanced 6p to 376p and the new 6p to 368p.

Speculative demand lifted Sichems 14p to 39p and Tricentral were 5p stronger at 272p. Shell could only manage a 2p rise to 340p.

Gold shares remained buoyant in line with the rising bullion price and the gold shares index rose 5.4 to 243.2. Among the leaders Western Holdings improved 8p to 545p and Klop gained 8p to 522p but W.

Alcanfam recanted 5p to 561.4. Among the cheaper gold miners Proprietary rose 8p to 131p while Antwerp 14p up to 67p. The smalls, at 67p, are only 15 pence above their 1975 low and include some premium for an bid from an overseas trader.

Companies that oil shortages are anticipated in the new year.

Gilt however remained subdued with jobbers reporting very little interest, if any. Longs continued nervous as a result of bad news from overseas but managed to finish the day mostly unchanged. Shorts experienced some demand early on but this had fizzled out by midday leaving losses of about £2.16 overall. The new 10p stock Treasury 15 per cent 1985 continued to attract some demand rising £1.16 to £98.13/16.

After opening 12 up at 10 am, the FT Index went on to close at its highest point of the day 4.8 up at 423.

Leading industrialists managed to regain most of Monday's losses with ICI and Glaxo continuing to lead the field both putting on 7p to 362p and 425p respectively. Unilever rose 9p to 462p. Fisons gained 2p to 224p. These remaining unchanged included Courtaulds at 76p, Beecham at 120p, Pilkington and BAT's both at 248p. Only Rank Organisation went

against the trend shedding a penny to 177p.

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against the trend shedding a penny to 177p.

The drinks sector was slightly better with Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries jumping 10p to 276p following full year figures and Irish Distillers also with full year figures increased 4p to 80p.

Two views of how Trust House Forte, Britain's largest hotel group, fared in the year to October have emerged. One, associated with brokers such as Carr Sebag, is that profits rose £15m to £70m; another is that this looks too high. There is an anxiety in some quarters that Trusthouse, a key part of the group's United States division has done little better than Howard Johnson, the expensive looking United States acquisition of Imperial Group. The shares are 13p.

Bass Charrington were 1p firmer at 208. Allied Breweries edged up 1p to 309.

In engineering, British Aerospace 3p to 225p and GKN was 9p stronger at 252p. Dowty were improved 7p up to 141p and Tubes improved 2p to 26p.

Equity turnover on December 3 was £58.28m (£10.43 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Ladbrokes, GKN, Cord Leisure, BATs, Shell, Unilever, GEC, Courtaulds, Boots, Beecham, Cons Gold Seeds, P and O, Barclays Bank, Ladbroke, Marks & Spencer and Land Securities.

Latest results

Company	Sales £m	Earnings per share pence	Div pence	Pay date	Year's total
Armalite Shanks (I)	25.7(2.4)	5.27(3.32)	1.5(1.34)	1/4	—
Armstrong-West (I)	1.2(0.25)	—	0.6(0.5)	18/1	2.25
Castrol (F)	2.9(2.76)	—	4.5(3.33)	15/2	5.5(4.14)
Concrete Prods (F)	35.5(3.25)	2.26(2.47)	1.17(0.78)	26/1	1.5(1.11)
F. Cooper (F)	13.6(10.9)	0.67(0.53)	1.55(0.73)	—	—
Crystallite Hedges (F)	13.5(8.51)	0.88(0.61)	0.80(0.77)	4/1	—
Diamond & Morris (I)	55.0(4.22)	2.24(2.13)	1.05(0.65)	8/2	6.1(5.61)
Edwards Ind (F)	23.0(19.0)	2.24(2.13)	1.76(0.528)	4.5(2.36)	—
Ldn & Gt Seas (I)	—	—	0.6(0.5)	42/2	0.6(0.63)
Manning Inds (I)	9.7(8.11)	—	1.0(0.5)	29/2	2.25
Nimrod (I)	2.86(2.53)	0.61(0.62)	0.25(1.2)	1.75(1.75)	2.75(2.75)
Williams (F)	21.9(20.2)	3.57(3.43)	—	—	—

Figures in this table are net of taxes paid. Earnings shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. Adjusted for scrip.

Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis.

Dividends are shown on a gross basis

FINANCIAL NEWS

Price increases and Lager sales boost three brewers

By Rosemary Unsworth

A crop of brewing results show what the weather and a series of price increases can do. They also emphasize the growing importance of Lager.

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries lived up to market expectations by producing pre-tax profits of £5.16m for the year ending September 30, 1979, compared with £7.1m. Turnover increased by 15 per cent to £56m, compared with 12 per cent in the first half.

The Midland group has been busy concluding its capital expenditure programme to meet forecast capacity requirements and to improve production efficiency, said Mr E. J. Thompson, chairman. At the

same time Wolverhampton and Dudley had expanded and improved its premises with five new pub openings.

At the same time bank borrowings have been reduced from £3.4m to £279,000, Mr Thompson pointed out.

Wolverhampton and Dudley's 10 per cent stake in the newly formed Harp Lager consortium means that a direct investment in production and marketing of Harp brands is essential because of the rapid development of the lager market. The other two members of the consortium are Arthur Guinness and Greene King and Sons.

A final dividend of 8.5 gross has been recommended, making 12p against 10p last year.

Daventry Brewery (Holdings) saw a 10 per cent increase

in turnover to £24.7m in the year to September 29, 1979 but pre-tax profits dropped from £1.55m to £1.54m. Operating profit increased slightly to £1.8m from £1.66m.

The board pointed out earlier

this year that margins had been under pressure after a prolonged bad winter and the need to maintain prices while costs were increasing.

A final dividend of 3.8p gross has been proposed, making a total of 5p compared with 4.75p last year.

The Nottinghamshire-based Mansfield Brewery also saw a small turnover improvement from £1.1m to £1.2m in the half year to September 30, 1979, but at the profit level rose to £2.2m from £1.79m.

The interim dividend rises from 1.3p gross to 1.4p.

Steetley pays \$15m for US firm

The Steetley Company, the Nottinghamshire-based lime-burner, has paid \$15m through a Canadian subsidiary, for Ohio Lime, a United States company.

Mr Peter Roberts, Steetley's finance director, says the new business operates a rotary kiln with a capacity of 250,000 tons a year and has substantial domestic reserves. Its business is, therefore, very similar to those run by Steetley in the United Kingdom and Canada.

But Mr Roberts declined to say how much Ohio would add to Steetley's profits, except that it would earn the desired rate of return. The purchase is being founded by loans raised by the Canadian company.

Steetley has been looking for a major United States acquisition for two years. Earlier this year it paid \$2.3m for a small domestic lime plant close to Ohio Lime.

Montedison talks

Milan—A new foreign partner may take a major share of Italian chemical company Montedison SPA, which is already 10 per cent controlled by Saudi financier Ghath Sharhan, company officials have confirmed.

Sigor Mario Schimberni, vice-chairman and chief executive officer, said in an interview with the United States magazine Business Week that Montedison is holding talks with a potential new partner whom he would not identify. A company spokesman confirmed the accuracy of the report—AP-Dow Jones.

A Cohen sale

The boards of A. Cohen and Co, the United Kingdom non-ferrous metals group, and Hulets Investments, a wholly owner subsidiary of Hulets Corp, have reached conditional agreement whereby Cohen will dispose of part of its 61.8 per cent interest in its South African subsidiary, Metal Sales Co (Proprietary), to Hulets for a cash consideration equivalent to £1.97m. Other shareholders in Hulets will sell simultaneously their shares in Hulets to Hulets.

Cohen will retain a 24 per cent interest in MSC with balance being held by Hulets.

The agreement provides for Cohen to dispose of its remaining holding in Hulets during six years following completion and, if this option is not exercised then for Hulets to purchase that holding. The agreement is subject, inter alia, to consents of regulatory authorities and approvals of both shareholders of Cohen and of MSC resident in South Africa. About 40 per cent of Cohen's interests is in Africa.

Northrop halts action

Northrop Corporation of America in the United States District Court in Los Angeles has withdrawn a preliminary injunction against McDonnell

International

Douglas Corporation involving the sale of F-18 aircraft to Canada.

The action was withdrawn because McDonnell Douglas agreed to a stipulation not to commit to other parties work allocated to Northrop a location for the F-18 jet and also agreed to make the plane "carrier suitable".

Northrop had asked the court to issue a preliminary injunction against McDonnell Douglas because without its consent McDonnell had offered to let Canadian companies build part of the F-18 now being provided by Northrop.

McDonnell Douglas will be required to pay all five million marks will be invested in a new plant, which the company is planning, though no specific details were given.

The new plant should become operational between 1983 and 1984, though a location for the works has not yet been chosen.

—Reuters

UAC of Nigeria

Unilever's UAC of Nigeria foresees a £35m 1979 pre-tax profit. UAC's in which Unilever holds a 40 per cent stake expects to reach £35m compared with £75m in the previous year.

A prospectus for a £20m 9.25 per cent unsecured debenture due in 1994, says that UAC's contribution to Unilever's 1979 combined pre-tax profit is estimated at £14m against £13m, a reduction which was largely reflected in Unilever's third quarter results published last month.

L&O's sale brings a profit

London and Overseas Freighters saw a return to profits after two years of losses with the sale of two vessels during the first half.

Profits amounted to £1.77m for the half year to September 30, 1979, compared with a £520,000 loss at the same time last year. The surplus on the sale of two vessels totalled £1.6m and the group has sold another two in the second half. This leaves the group with four modern tankers, two older ones and four bulk carriers.

The group said it was quickly confident and planned to make investments in new ships. As usual, L&O made no interim dividend payment.

Mr D. N. Smith is to be joint managing director of J. R. & S. Lee, with the present managing director, Mr D. Shaw. Mr Shaw will have additional responsibilities for the American subsidiary, J. R. & S. Lee Incorporated. Mr T. A. Cooper continued as a director and will have responsibility for all works functions.

Mr Brian Hopper has joined Zurich Life as sales and marketing manager from The Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society.

Mr David Mitchell, director of the British Furniture Manufacturers' Federation, is to be the next president of the UEA (Union, Européenne de l'Ameublement—the European Furniture Manufacturers' Federation).

Dr David Swallow has been named as managing director of the speciality chemicals division of Tunnel Holdings.

Mr Harold Delvin has been made chief executive of Dayville.

Mr Michael Thompson has been appointed a director of Raglan Property Trust.

Dr J. A. Vickers is joining the Beechwood Construction (Holdings) and will take up the post of managing director of the construction division.

Mr S. G. Cameron is to become chairman and chief executive of Gallagher from January 1. He has been appointed to the board of American Brands Inc. Gallagher's parent company. Mr A. W. H. Stewart-Moore will retire as chairman of Gallagher.

Mr Derrick G. Smith has been made marketing director and general manager of Sperry New Holland.

Mr Ted Crosbie is joining the board of Press Association.

Mr Donald M. Kornberg has joined the Grindlays Bank Group as managing director of Grindlays Banks Leasing.

Options

Traded options remained in the doldrums yesterday as investors remained on the sidelines. An early indication of how quiet conditions were was shown at 11 am when only 59 contracts close to those figures had risen to 314, the lowest since November 14, compared with Monday's total of 375. In traditional options conditions were slightly better. Calls were arranged in Style Shoes, after rumours of an imminent bid from Combined English, Ulstermar and Stansbury Discount. Interest was also shown in Ladbrokes mainly at the lower levels. A put was arranged in First Nat Fin and a double completed in KCA Int.

UK RESERVES

The following are the figures for the United Kingdom's official reserves issued by the Treasury.

End of period £m £m £m

1979 Jan 16,258 8,162 584

Feb. 16,617 8,213 539

March 17,454 8,448 837

April 21,947 10,820 —

May 21,467 10,378 —480

June 22,070 10,163 538

July 23,495 10,400 1,429

Aug. 23,303 10,332 —194

Sept. 22,761 10,332 —554

Oct. 22,448 10,512 —253

Nov. 22,417 10,199 —81

reserves released end March

John Williams profits plunge in hard year

By Rosemary Unsworth

Gloomy first half results were matched by disappointing second six month figures at John Williams of Cardiff, the steel stockholder, iron founder and architectural products manufacturer.

Pre-tax profits slumped from a record £1.2m to £256,000 in the year ending September 30, 1979. Turnover rose 8 per cent to £21.9m and Mr Harold Williams, chairman, said that 1979 had been "difficult and disappointing for the group."

The Nottinghamshire-based Mansfield Brewery also saw a small turnover improvement from £1.1m to £1.2m in the half year to September 30, 1979, but at the profit level rose to £2.2m from £1.79m.

The interim dividend rises from 1.3p gross to 1.4p.

The group is benefiting from a £3m investment programme at the foundries where the October results were the best for 10 years.

John Williams Foundries made a trading profit of £17,000 compared with last year's £557,000. The downturn was due to a modernization scheme which turned out to be more disruptive than expected. The engineering workers' dispute also contributed to the plant's closure for a short time.

Jonewindows' profit also fell from £82,000 to a trading loss of £3,000 but the group's profit came from its Scottish and Welsh steel stockholding companies which contributed £722,000 against £672,000.

A final dividend of 2.5p gross has been recommended, making a total of 3.92p, the same as last year had started on a better note.

Armitage Shanks manages rise of 25 pc despite disruption

By Alison Mitchell

In keeping with other groups involved in engineering, first half profits at Staffordshire-based Armitage Shanks were hit by the industrial unrest in the industry.

Although Mr Kennedy Campbell, chairman, declines to quantify the costs of the strike, pre-tax profits in the six months to September 29, 1979, did rise by a quarter from £2m to £2.5m. Turnover was a tenth higher at £25.7m.

Both the engineering and ceramic divisions of the plumbing fixtures and fittings groups were disrupted. Three out of the group's six factories were hit.

However the 25 per cent rise in earnings has been maintained to date, though the chairman warns shareholders that the international outlook

and high interest rates could make orders more difficult to obtain.

Export sales, which amount to between 20 and 25 per cent of total turnover dropped slightly during the period but now show signs of progress again.

Nigeria, which accounted for almost a third of United Kingdom ceramic exports, closed its doors on imported ceramic sanitaryware but Mr Campbell is cautiously confident that there may be some lifting of the restrictions in the near future.

Elsewhere overseas, the Singapore subsidiary is now breaking even while the Australian outfit is still in the black.

For shareholders there is an interim dividend of 2.14p, against a previous 2p, adjusted for the one-for-two scrip issue.

Exchange differences, which are taken in below the line,

amount to £111,000 against a previous £35,000.

During the six months, the group sold its builders' merchant's North Eastern Distributors to for more than £15m and this has substantially reduced group borrowings.

Ceramics SA, a Panamanian company controlled by Lebanese interests, has now increased its holding in Armitage to around 20 per cent. However the Armitage chairman sees the stake as no more than a trading investment and discounts the possibility of a bid. As yet Ceramics has made no approach for a seat on the board.

For shareholders there is an interim dividend of 2.14p, against a previous 2p, adjusted for the one-for-two scrip issue.

Union Corporation has discovered a new gold mine. The deposit, of unspecified size, is on property owned by a subsidiary, Beartree Mines, in the Orange Free State.

A full feasibility study of the mine, which is described as medium to low-grade, will be completed by the middle of next year. But the company is confident enough of its geological work to begin pre-grounding of the shaft areas before the study is finished.

Pre-grounding is the process of sinking bore holes and laying drainage to prevent a shaft becoming flooded while it is being developed.

Mr Moss pointed out that orders have been well maintained in the first two months of the year, he said that exports would depend on world economy and sterling rates.

R. A. DYSON & CO

Discussions are taking place, which may lead to an offer being made for group. Stock has been suspended to suspend listing of the company's shares and a further announcement will be made as soon as possible.

JOHN G. KINCAID

Bank of England reports that an issue of 1.3m shares of 5 per cent Treasury stock 1981, is being offered as compensation in respect of the unquoted securities of John G. Kincaid.

ALLIED IRISH BANKS

Allied Irish Banks is progressing ahead with its £50m 5.50% floating rate note issue with a coupon of 3 per cent over LIBOR which was postponed because of the Irish bank strike.

CONCRETE PRODUCTS

Marley's Irish subsidiary, Concrete Products of Ireland, reports sales for year to September 30 up from £28.9m to £35.5m and pre-tax profits from £2.47m to £3.26m. Total dividend, gross 7.85p, against 5.55p (adjusted for scrip issue).

US & GENERAL

London and Manchester Assurance has acquired a further 65,547 ordinary shares in United States Assurance Trust and now holds 100 per cent Treasury stock 1981, is being offered as compensation in respect of the unquoted securities of John G. Kincaid.

NSB NEWSPAGENTS

NSB Newspagents agree to sell its 100 per cent interest in New York, wholesale cash and carry business in the confectionery and tobacco field with headquarters in Manchester and branches in London and Poole.

It is anticipated that New York annual pre-tax profit will be less than 50.5p with interesting expansion prospects for the future.

MOSS ENGINEERING

When considering the current position of the Moss Engineering Group, Mr Ernest Carr is "not unduly dismayed by the gloomy world economic outlook". He tells shareholders in his annual statement that this view is based partly on the group's recovery in the year to August, 1979, from the disappointment of the previous year.

NSB NEWSPAGENTS

NSB Newspagents agree to sell its 100 per cent interest in New York, wholesale cash

MARKET REPORTS

Ivory Coast exports of sugar may start soon

Abidjan, Dec. 4.—The Ivory Coast expects to start exporting raw sugar by the end of next January, official sources said. Production for the 1979-80 campaign would be about 100,000 to 110,000 tonnes, of which it expects to export about 40,000 tonnes.

Officials here regard the United States and some African countries as possible markets.

The Ivory Coast has already been exporting molasses since last year, officials said; 36,000 tonnes had so far been exported. During the current campaign, from November to October, exports should amount to at least 50,000 tonnes. Sugar production last year was 58,000 tonnes.

The Ivory Coast has built a network of six sugar complexes in the northern half of the country; officials say that when they reach full production in three years' time, the area will produce about 300,000 tonnes annually.

Fifteen countries started up in the last, Zairenula, is scheduled to start in mid-January. Foreign sugar industry sources said the Ivory Coast faces a serious storage problem if much of the sugar remains unsold, but Ivory Coast officials said that although storage was difficult, the problem could be solved.

Soviet purchases United States Administration officials believe that the Soviet Union recently bought at least several cargoes of raw sugar on the world market, but they acknowledge that confirmation of the deal has yet to be obtained.

Officials were commenting on reports first in New York that the Soviet Union bought at least one cargo of sugar, and then in London that total Soviet purchases could be 10 to 15 cargoes.

One government analyst said the Central Intelligence Agency had been alerted to the widely circulating rumours.

The analyst said Soviet sugar production this year will be insufficient to cover consumption requirements, and that Cuba probably will be unable to make up all of the shortfall because of a reduced crop.

Fall expected in India grain crop

Kolkata, Dec. 4.—India's grain crop is expected to fall by about 115 million tonnes in the current year 1979-80 as a result of the worst drought in at least 75 years, from 135 million tonnes in 1978-79. This was stated by Satya Nand, executive director of the Fertiliser Association of India at the World Food Conference here.

However, grain reserves of about 20m tonnes, reflecting four previous years of good harvests, should help tide over until the next season, he added.

The main effect of the drought had been in non-irrigated areas and in urban consumption rates, six per cent in the drought-ridden summer months over the same 1978-79 period, while for the winter crop fertiliser consumption increased eight per cent over the previous year.

He forecast that Indian production of nitrogen will reach 335m tonnes by 1980-81, compared to 2.4m tonnes in the current year and 2.17m in 1978-79.

Bank Base Rates**Money Market Rates**

Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate 17.5% Creating Reserve Bank 17.5% Overnight Lending 17.5% Interbank 17.5%

ABN Bank 17.5% Barclays Bank 17.5% BCCI Bank 17.5% Consolidated Credits 17.5% C. Hoare & Co. 17.5% Lloyd's Bank 17.5% London Mercantile 17.5% Midland Bank 17.5% Nat Westminster 17.5% Rossminster 17.5% TSB 17.5% Williams & Glyn's 17.5%

* 7 day deposit on sum of £20,000 under 12.5%, up to £50,000, 12.5% over £50,000, 12.5%.

THE NEW THROGMORTON TRUST LTD.

Capital Loan Stock Valuation—December 4th, 1979

The Net Asset Value per £1 of Capital Loan Stock is 158.30P calculated on Formula 2.

Securities valued at middle market prices.

Wall Street

New York, Dec. 4.—Stocks rose in active trading this morning. Advances led declines three-to-two and the Dow Jones industrial average gained four points.

Analysts said the market continues to be supportive, despite the interest rates have peaked. They also cited a firmer dollar and lower gold prices.

General Motors gained 1 to 50½, Du Pont 1 to 40, Boeing Co 2 to 46, Exxon 1 to 57½.

Silver closes 12.3c up

New York, Dec. 3. COMEX SILVER futures closed December contract and the 60 cent limit in all other months higher. Bid: Feb. 200, 96c; bid: April, 176.40c; bid: June, 225.00c; bid: Aug., 242.00c; bid: Oct., 257.00c; bid: Dec., 265.10c; bid: Feb., 270.00c; bid: March, 273.00c; bid: April, 284.00c; bid: May, 294.00c; bid: June, 304.00c; bid: July, 314.00c; bid: Aug., 324.00c; bid: Sept., 334.00c; bid: Oct., 344.00c; bid: Nov., 354.00c; bid: Dec., 364.00c; bid: March, 374.00c; bid: April, 384.00c; bid: May, 394.00c; bid: June, 404.00c; bid: July, 414.00c; bid: Aug., 424.00c; bid: Sept., 434.00c; bid: Oct., 444.00c; bid: Nov., 454.00c; bid: Dec., 464.00c; bid: March, 474.00c; bid: April, 484.00c; bid: May, 494.00c; bid: June, 504.00c; bid: July, 514.00c; bid: Aug., 524.00c; bid: Sept., 534.00c; bid: Oct., 544.00c; bid: Nov., 554.00c; bid: Dec., 564.00c; bid: March, 574.00c; bid: April, 584.00c; bid: May, 594.00c; bid: June, 604.00c; bid: July, 614.00c; bid: Aug., 624.00c; bid: Sept., 634.00c; bid: Oct., 644.00c; bid: Nov., 654.00c; bid: Dec., 664.00c; bid: March, 674.00c; bid: April, 684.00c; bid: May, 694.00c; bid: June, 704.00c; bid: July, 714.00c; bid: Aug., 724.00c; bid: Sept., 734.00c; bid: Oct., 744.00c; bid: Nov., 754.00c; bid: Dec., 764.00c; bid: March, 774.00c; bid: April, 784.00c; bid: May, 794.00c; bid: June, 804.00c; bid: July, 814.00c; bid: Aug., 824.00c; bid: Sept., 834.00c; bid: Oct., 844.00c; bid: Nov., 854.00c; bid: Dec., 864.00c; bid: March, 874.00c; bid: April, 884.00c; bid: May, 894.00c; bid: June, 904.00c; bid: July, 914.00c; bid: Aug., 924.00c; bid: Sept., 934.00c; bid: Oct., 944.00c; bid: Nov., 954.00c; bid: Dec., 964.00c; bid: March, 974.00c; bid: April, 984.00c; bid: May, 994.00c; bid: June, 1004.00c; bid: July, 1014.00c; bid: Aug., 1024.00c; bid: Sept., 1034.00c; bid: Oct., 1044.00c; bid: Nov., 1054.00c; bid: Dec., 1064.00c; bid: March, 1074.00c; bid: April, 1084.00c; bid: May, 1094.00c; bid: June, 1104.00c; bid: July, 1114.00c; bid: Aug., 1124.00c; bid: Sept., 1134.00c; bid: Oct., 1144.00c; bid: Nov., 1154.00c; bid: Dec., 1164.00c; bid: March, 1174.00c; bid: April, 1184.00c; 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PERSONAL CHOICE

Simon Shuard in *The Enchanted Castle*, from the E. Nesbit book (BBC 1, 5.05).

Basil Fawlty, a wordmonger of good repute, is being less than honest with us when he says about Basil Fawlty, the voluble proprietor of Fawlty Towers, "I'm not the best fascinators and rages are the product of all the many invitations that everybody experiences in life." In fact, what distinguishes his Fawlty from the rest of us who are battered by an insensibility life force, is that Basil Fawlty is also a liar, a bigot and a man on no more than nodding terms with high principles. He is also a brilliant comic invention, which few of the rest of us are. The entire second series of *Fawlty Towers*, first seen on BBC 2, is now being repeated on BBC 1 and you can see the first episode tonight (8.25). This is the one about the deaf guest (John Savident) who loses a lot of money at the hotel and demands a police investigation.

Last night, Mae Alive expounded the Whitley theory on the handling of young offenders: the short, sharp shock that will take the criminality from his soul and the smile off his face. Tonight: *The World About Us* (BBC 1, 10.25) examines an American experiment which has the same object in view and is equally punishing to mind and body. Young criminals are offered a choice: go to jail or go on a 1,500-mile wagon trail trek from Tucson, in Arizona, to Denver, in Colorado. And it is about these treks, with stubborn mules and heavy wagons, that tonight's programme concerns itself. The difference between these latter-day pioneers and the wagon masters of the Old West is that today, instead of man taming the West, it is the West (or so it is hoped) that is taming man.

Vividly, I recall the sense of shock I experienced when, earlier this year and for the first time, I watched the European Community Youth Orchestra giving a concert on television. No need to make allowances for this teenage ensemble. They behaved like veterans and their musical mastery was wonderful to behold. The concert I heard then is not the same one you can hear on radio today (Radio 3, 3.15) but I will be surprised if you are not surprised at the high quality of their musicianship. The programme includes the first broadcast performance of Britten's overture *Peter Pan*, and the main work is Berlioz' *Symphonie fantastique*.

Choral Evensong (Radio 4, 4.00) comes from one of my favourite British cathedrals, Lichfield. Let me recommend the traditional fragility of these afternoon broadcasts to anyone with an unquiet spirit. In their own unspectacular way, they are masterpieces of radio.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: *STEREO: *BLACK AND WHITE; (r) REPEAT.

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Daville

TELEVISION

BBC 1

12.45 News and weather. 1.00 Pebble Mill at One: Janet the distant side's response to Milk Man's arrival can cost 100. Also: songs from Frankie Vaughan and a visit from Ken Dodd, celebrating 25 years in show business.

1.45 Over the Moon: story of what happened to Mary's little lamb when it grew up. Closedown at 2.00.

2.20 Delia Smith's Cookery Course: making meat out of pulses (peas, lentils etc.). (r).

3.55 Play School: the story of The Blind Man and the Elephant.

4.20 Pixie and Dixie: cartoon.

4.25 Jingles (r).

4.40 Tarzan, Lord of the Jungle, Cartoon, Tarzan and the Colossus of Zonzo.

5.00 Craven's Newsround: John Craven announced that cross-overs will probably appreciate, too.

BBC 2

10.20 am Gharbar: for Asian women. Closedown at 10.45.

11.00 Play School: the same programme as BBC 1, 3.55. Closedown at 11.25.

11.45 Laurel and Hardy: Laughing Gravy. Stan and Oliver smuggle a dog into their lodgings. Thought, by many, to be their best short.

6.00 Adventure at Sea: part two of *Digby the Seal*.

7.00 pm Laurel and Hardy: Laughing Gravy. Stan and Oliver smuggle a dog into their lodgings. Thought, by many, to be their best short.

7.30 News with sub-titles for the hard of hearing.

7.30 The Old Grey Whistle Test: return of the much-loved programme. With Judy Taunay and UK.

8.05 The Book Programme: A discussion on the new Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Speakers include one of its editors, Richard Brain, and D. J. Ewright, critic and poet.

8.30 Discovering Churches: Donald Sinden moves into the post-Reformation period, visiting Walpole Chapel, Suffolk, the church in England, St. Margaret Lothbury, London, EC2, and St. Stephen, Walbrook, EC4.

9.00 Party Political Broadcast: see Political Broadcast.

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